



# Hikaru no Go

**SHONEN JUMP MANGA**

Story by **Yumi Hotta** Art by **Takeshi Obata**  
Supervised by **Yukari Umezawa (5 Dan)**

**volume 19**



Look. It's right here. See it on the bottom left of this page?



### Yumi Hotta

On the bottom left of the inside flap of JC (Jump Comics) you'll always see this apple mark.\*

Apparently it's left over from some kind of campaign that happened over a decade ago.

It's a mysterious, enduring logo.  
Will it be used again someday?!

—Yumi Hotta

\* This refers to the apple-shaped logo that appears on the Japanese editions of *Hikaru no Go*. —Ed.

It all began when Yumi Hotta played a pick-up game of go with her father-in-law. As she was learning how to play, Ms. Hotta thought it might be fun to create a story around the traditional board game. More confident in her storytelling abilities than her drawing skills, she submitted the beginnings of **Hikaru no Go** to **Weekly Shonen Jump's** Story King Award. The Story King Award is an award that picks the best story, manga, character design and youth (under 15) manga submissions every year in Japan. As fate would have it, Ms. Hotta's story (originally named, "**Kokonotsu no Hoshi**"), was a runner-up in the "Story" category of the Story King Award. Many years earlier, Takeshi Obata was a runner-up for the Tezuka Award, another Japanese manga contest sponsored by **Weekly Shonen Jump** and **Monthly Shonen Jump**. An editor assigned to Mr. Obata's artwork came upon Ms. Hotta's story and paired the two for a full-fledged manga about go. The rest is modern go history.



**HIKARU NO GO VOL. 19**  
**SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition**

STORY BY YUMI HOTTA  
ART BY TAKESHI OBATA  
Supervised by YUKARI UMEZAWA (5 Dan)

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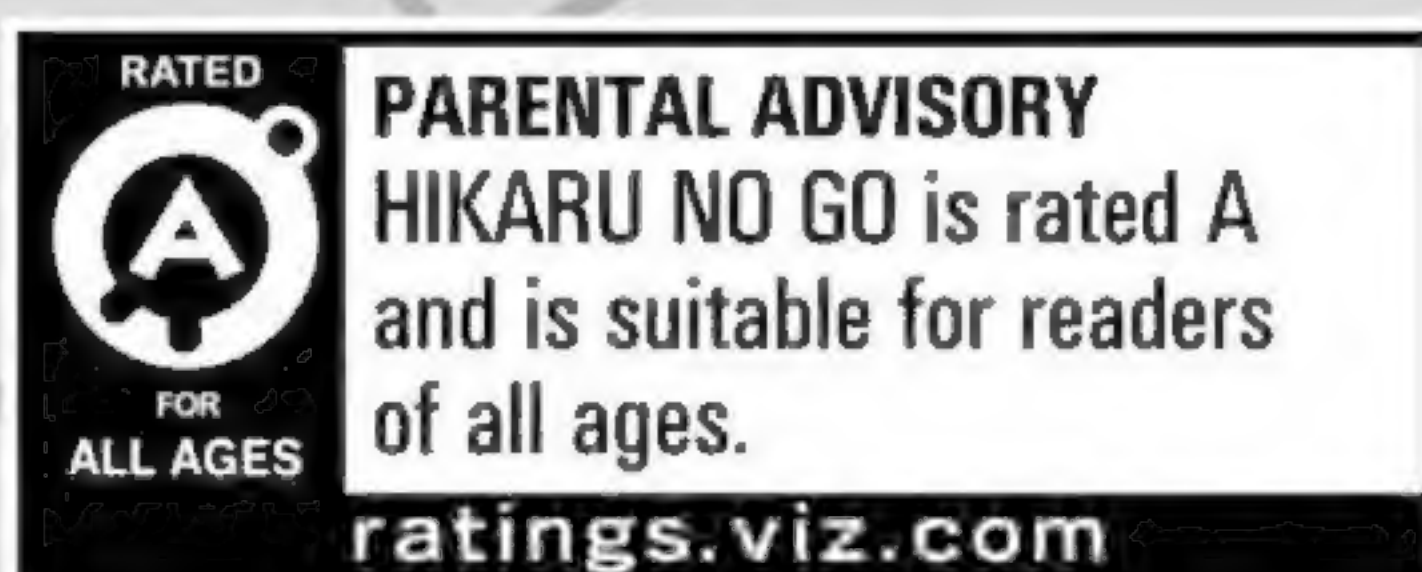
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**Hikaru**  
no

**19 ONE STEP FORWARD!**

STORY BY  
**YUMI HOTTA**

ART BY  
**TAKESHI OBATA**

Supervised by  
**YUKARI UMEZAWA**  
(5 Dan)



# CHARACTERS

VOL.19

● Hikaru Shindo ●



● Shinichiro Isumi ●



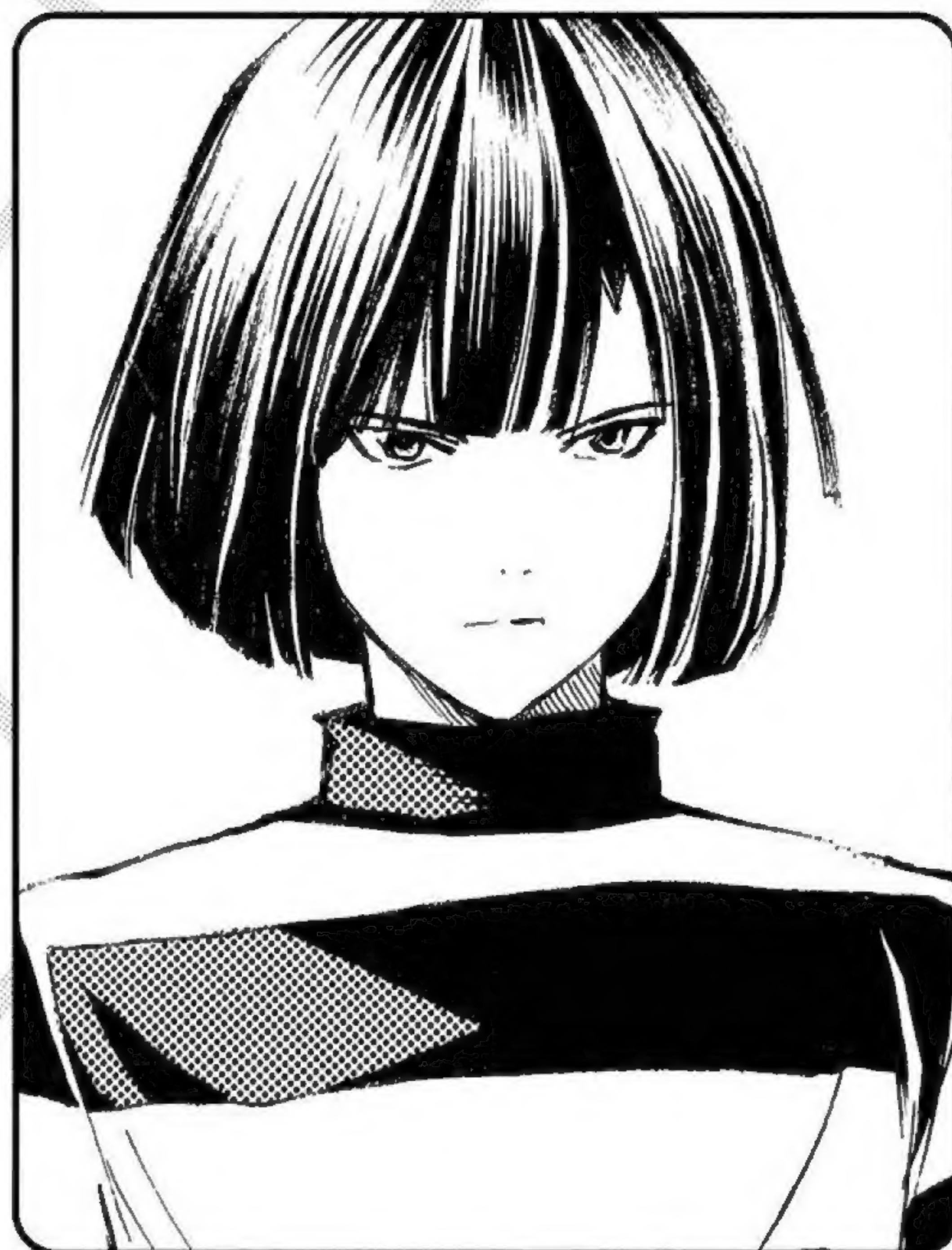
● Katsuhiko Kadowaki ●

Meet  
the  
Characters

● Kosuke Ono ●



● Yoshitaka Waya ●



● Akira Toya ●



## Story Thus Far

Hikaru Shindo discovers an old go board one day up in his grandfather's attic. The moment Hikaru touches the board, the spirit of Fujiwara-no-Sai, a genius go player from Japan's Heian Era, enters his consciousness. Sai's love of the game inspires Hikaru, as does a meeting with the child prodigy Akira Toya, son of go master Toya Meijin.

Upon entering junior high, Hikaru joins the school go club and his participation in a tournament makes him take the game more seriously. He rapidly improves and quits the go club, deciding to take the exam to become an insei. He passes the insei exam and as he competes against his peer rivals Waya, Isumi and Ochi, his skills develop at a surprising speed. On his first attempt to pass the pro exam, he struggles due to his inexperience but somehow manages to clear the preliminaries. To overcome his weaknesses he puts himself through intensive training at a go salon in town and gains the confidence needed to pass the pro exam. Finally on the same playing field as his rival Akira, Hikaru starts taking his first steps down the road of professional go. Amidst the crowd of formidable veterans, will he be the one to usher in the new wave of top-flight go players?



● Atsushi Kurata ●



● Toshinori Honda ●



● Ichiryu Kisei ●



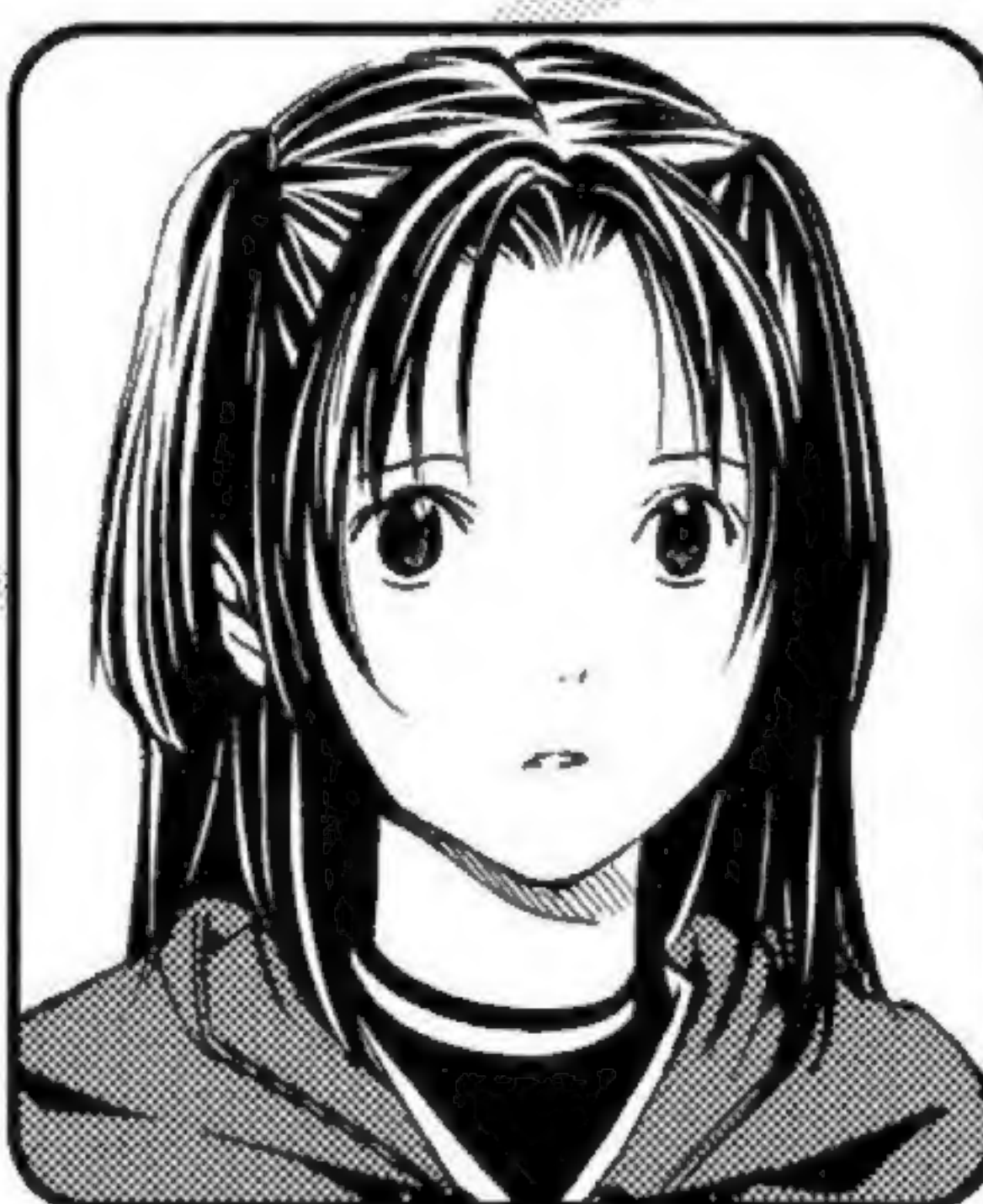
● Kuwabara Hon'inbo ●



● Gokiso 7 dan ●



● Hitoshi Koike ●



● Akari Fujisaki ●



● Harumi Ichikawa ●



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"A  
MILLION  
GAMES  
AND  
I STILL  
DON'T  
GET IT."



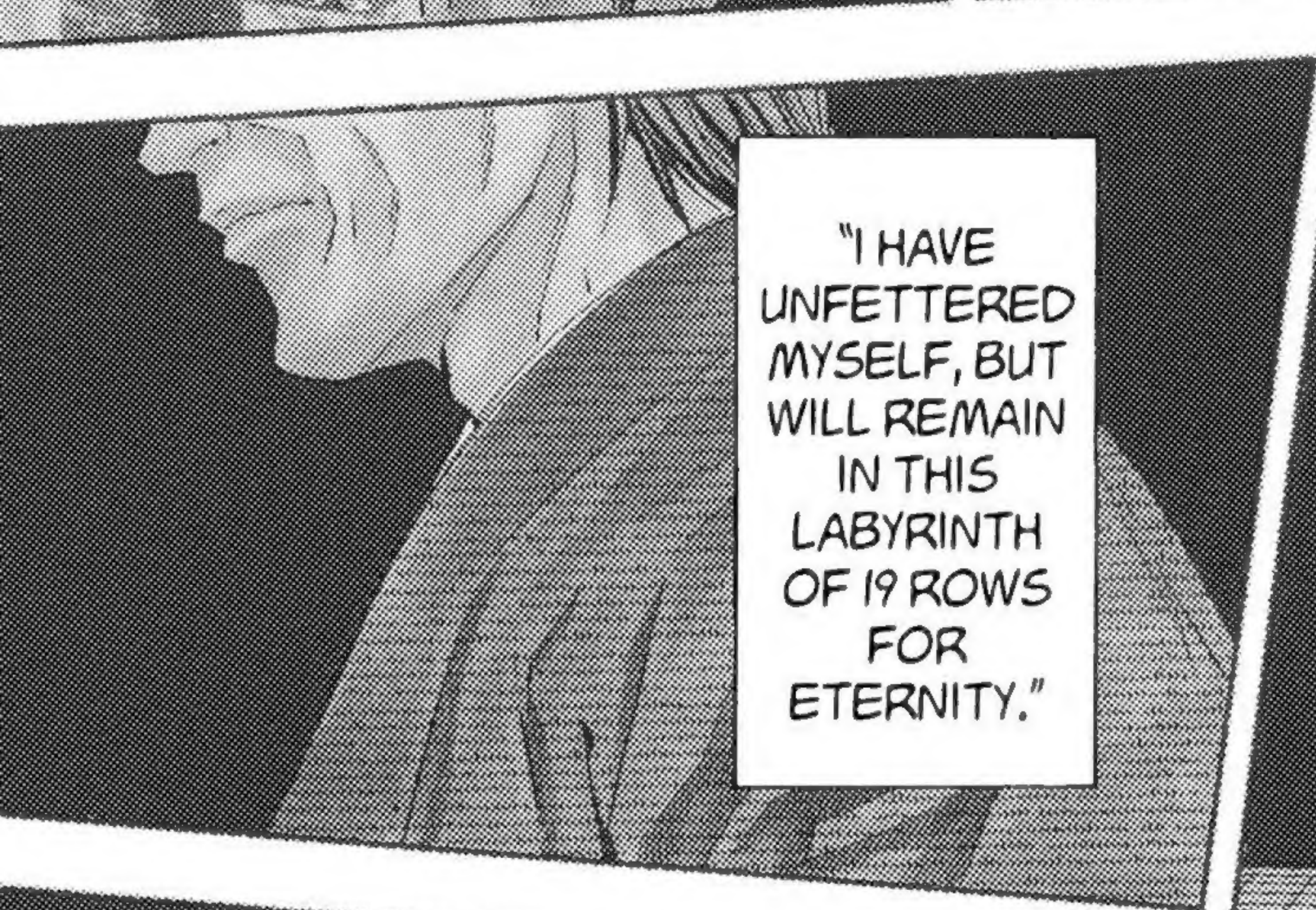
"GO  
IS  
INFI-  
NITE."



"THE  
BOARD  
RE-  
MAINS  
UTTER-  
LY  
DARK."



"IS THERE  
AN  
ANSWER?"



"I HAVE  
UNFETTERED  
MYSELF, BUT  
WILL REMAIN  
IN THIS  
LABYRINTH  
OF 19 ROWS  
FOR  
ETERNITY."



"I TRY TO  
FEEL MY  
WAY  
FORWARD  
IN SEARCH  
OF LIGHT."



"...ATTAIN  
THE  
DIVINE  
MOVE."

"I  
HAVE  
YET  
TO..."



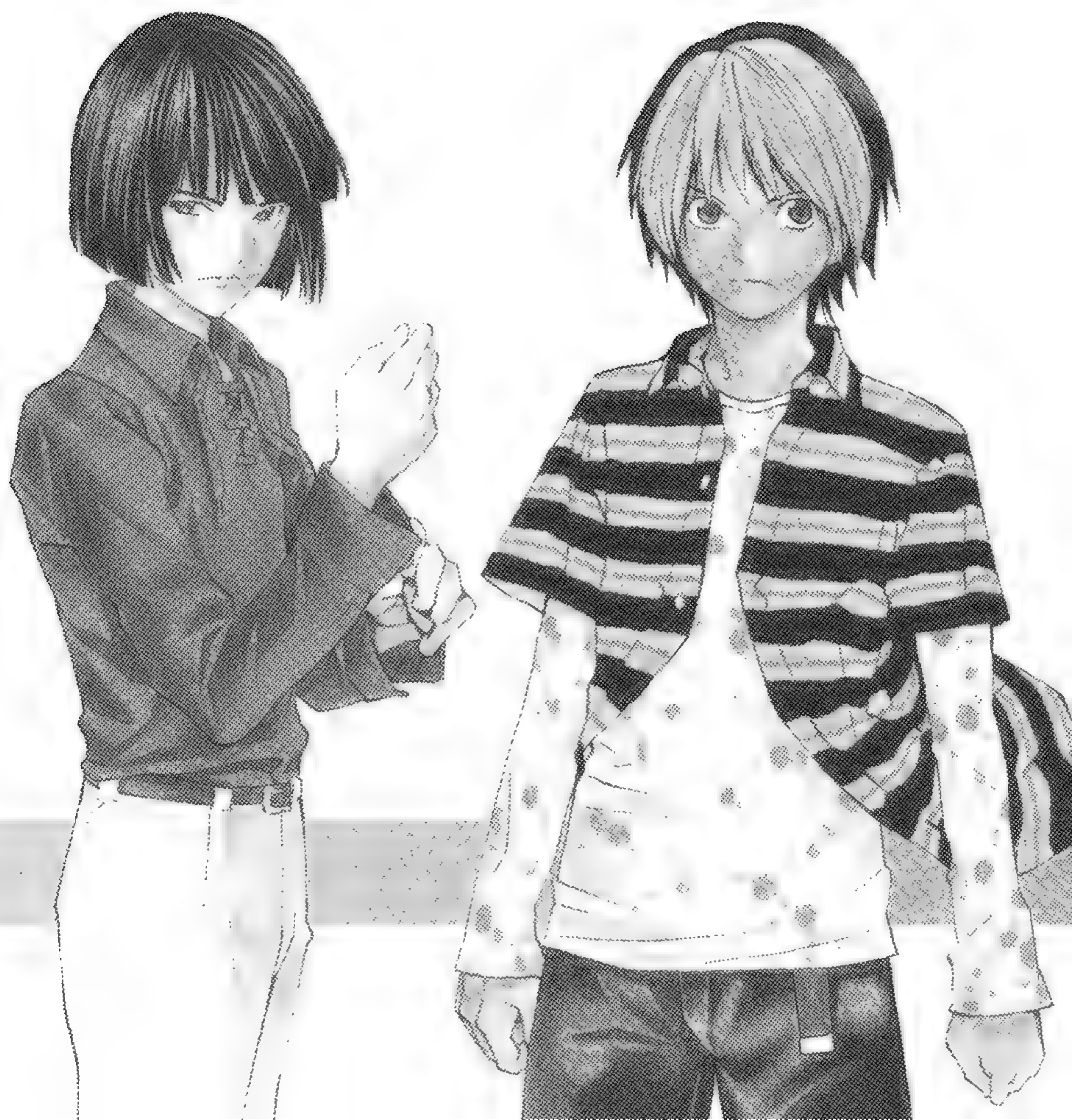
# Game 149 "The Strongest Shodan"







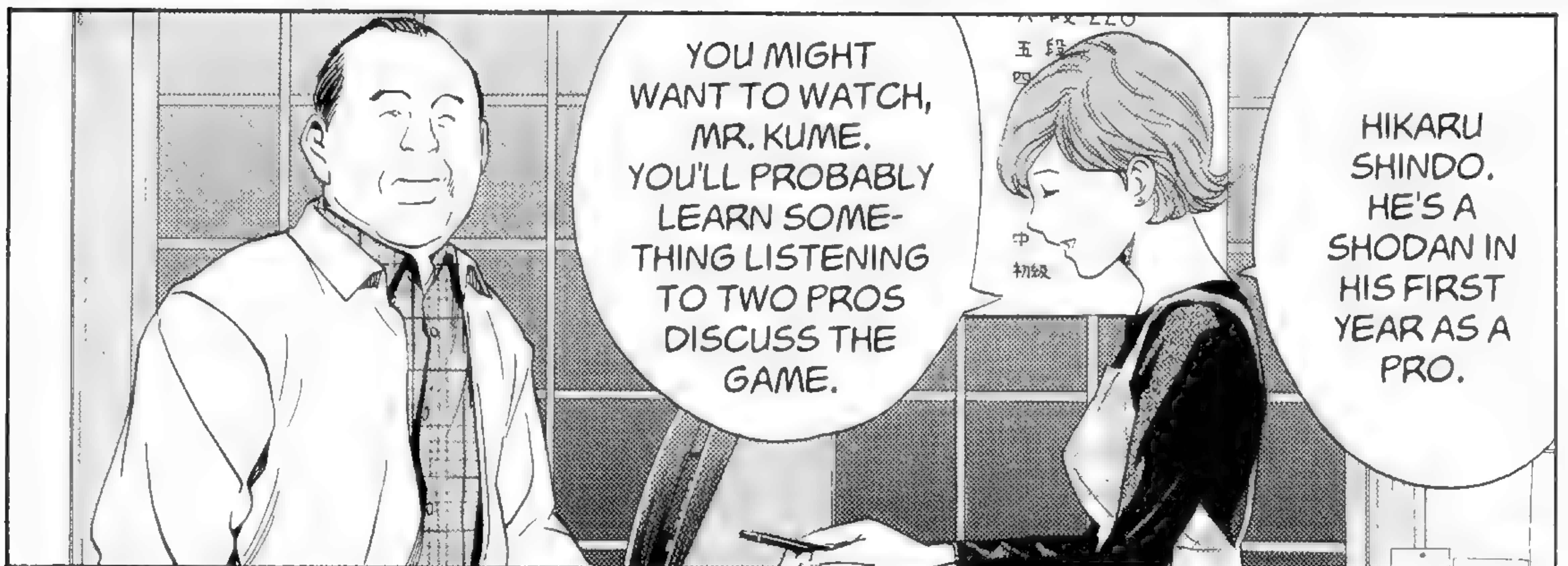
















AGAIN?

AGAIN?

TIME TO  
DISPERSE.



UM...  
YOU  
COULD  
SAY  
THAT...

THE TWO  
OF THEM  
GET ALONG  
WELL?

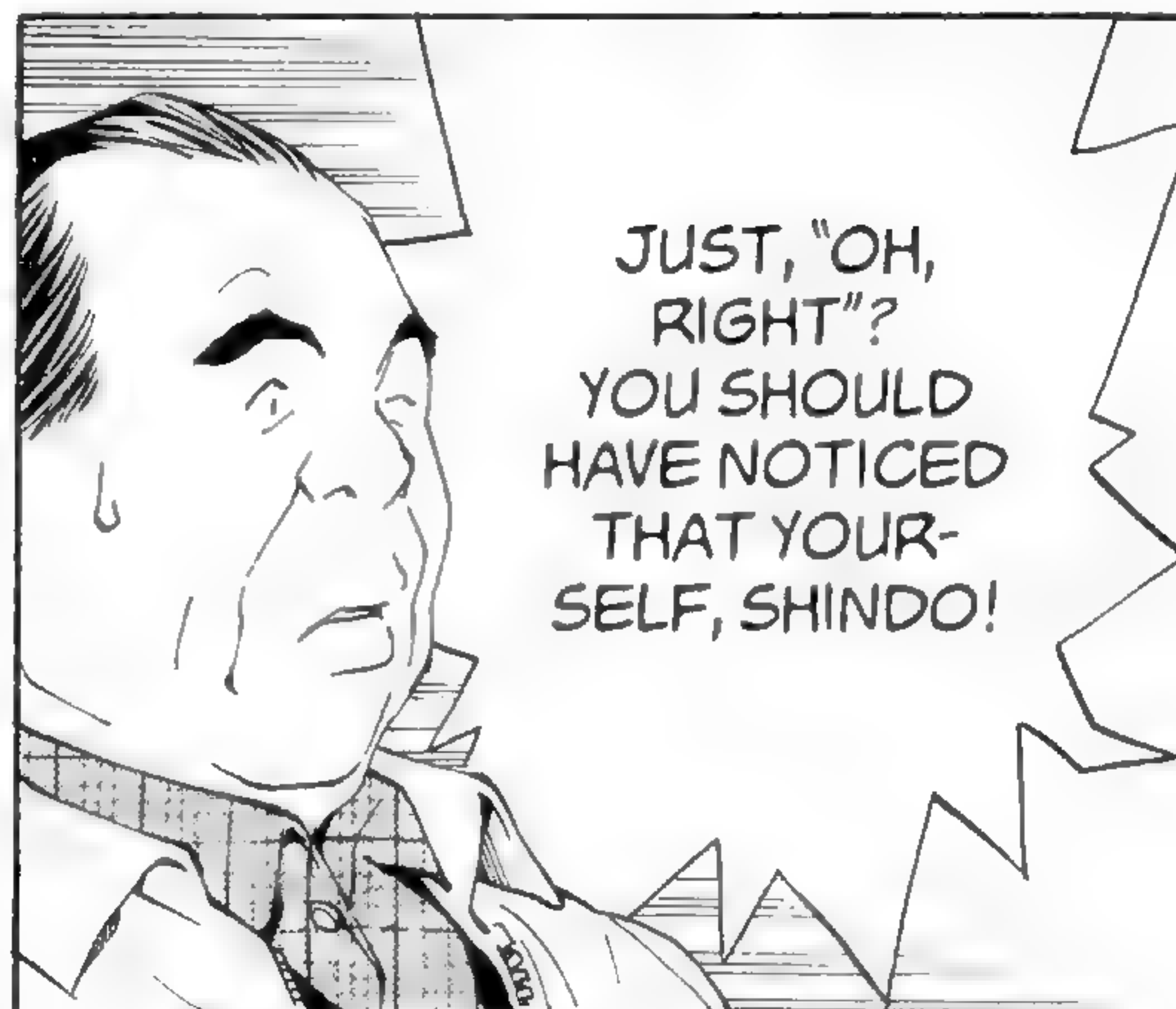


IT'S  
GONNA  
START!

THINGS  
ARE  
HEATING  
UP.



GIMME A  
BREAK!  
YOU DIDN'T  
NOTICE THIS  
DESCENT!



JUST, "OH,  
RIGHT"?  
YOU SHOULD  
HAVE NOTICED  
THAT YOUR-  
SELF, SHINDO!



AND YOU  
KEEP  
SAYING, "OH,  
RIGHT"!

AND YOU  
OVERLOOKED  
THIS  
ATTACHMENT!

















LISTEN,  
EVEN TOYA  
HAD TO  
START AT  
THE SAME  
EXACT  
POINT AS  
YOU AND ME!

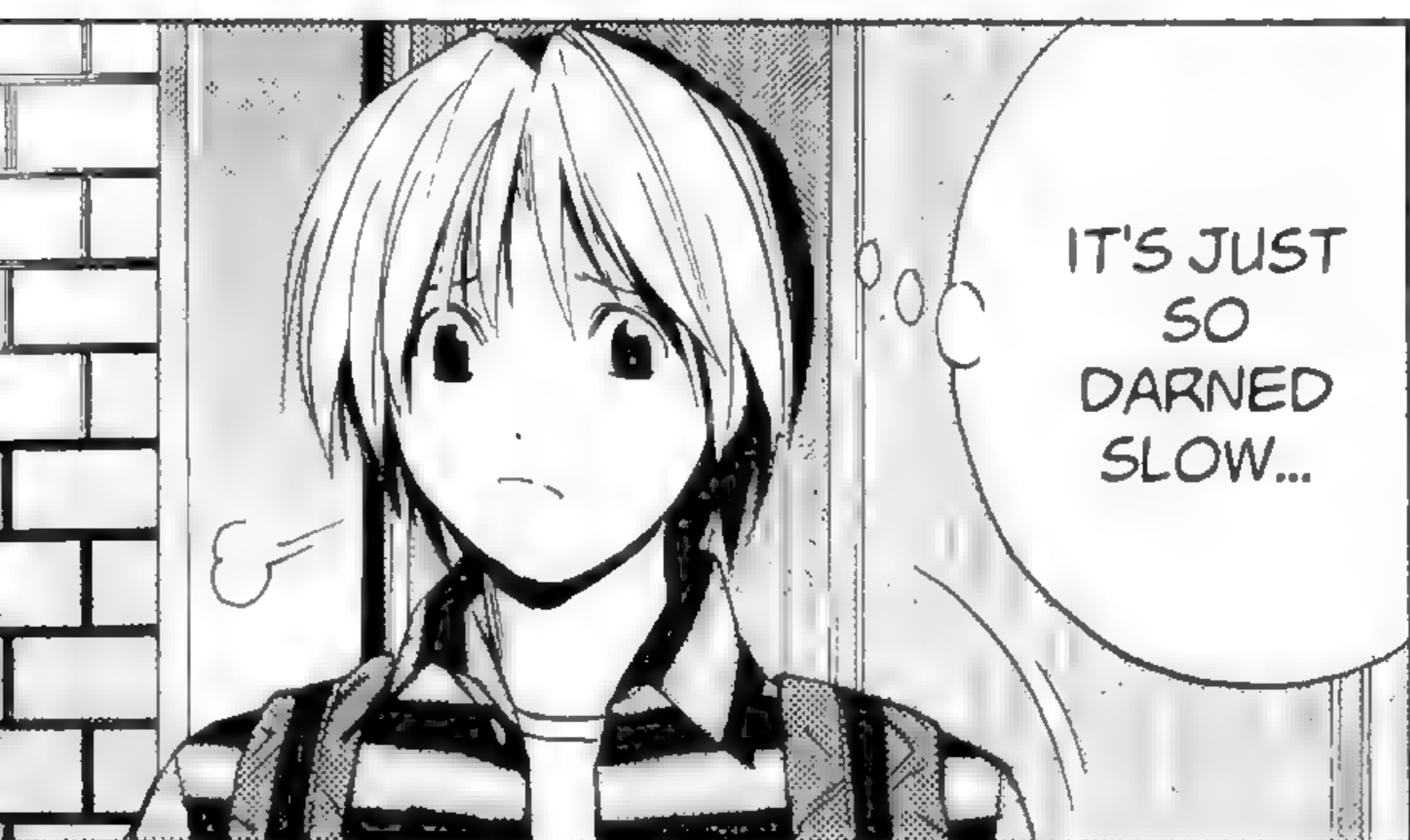
I'M NOT.  
IT'S JUST THAT  
TOYA GETS TO GO  
UP AGAINST 9 DAN  
PLAYERS.

HEY!  
YOU CAN'T GO  
INTO THIS  
GAME TAKING  
KAWASAKI  
3 DAN SO  
LIGHTLY!



NOTHIN' TO  
BE GAINED  
BY BEING IN  
A HURRY.

YOU'RE A  
SHODAN.  
I'M A  
2 DAN.



IT'S JUST  
SO  
DARNED  
SLOW...



EVEN FOR THE  
OTEAI MATCHES,  
IF YOUR RANK  
DOESN'T GO UP  
YOU'LL NEVER FACE  
A REALLY STRONG  
PLAYER.

FOR ANY  
TOURNAMENT, WE  
HAVE TO WIN OUR  
WAY THROUGH THE  
PRELIMS WHERE  
THE LOWER RANKED  
PLAYERS FROM  
SHODAN TO 4 DAN  
PLAY EACH  
OTHER.

I KNOW,  
BUT...

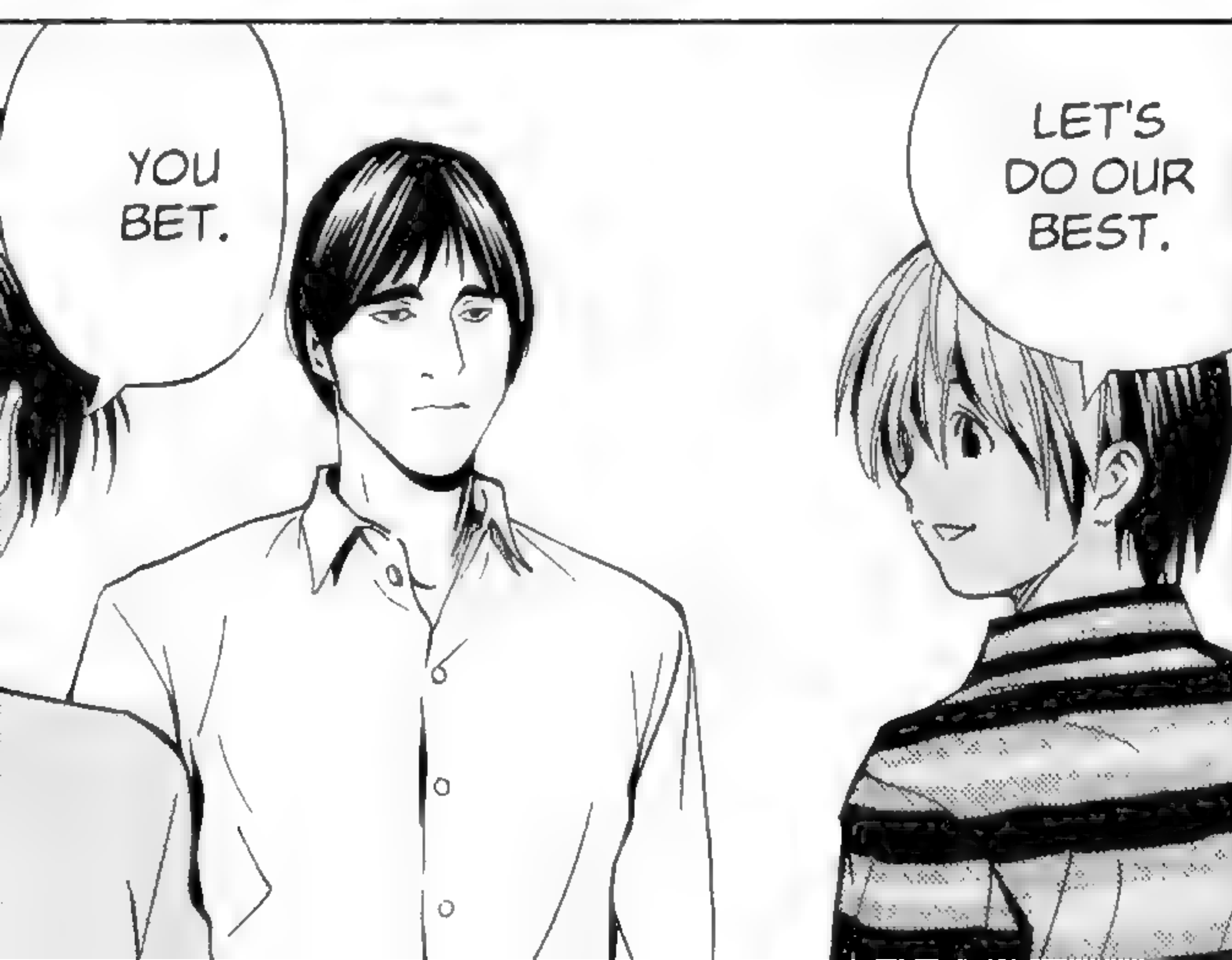


HEY, WAYA,  
YOU  
ORDERING IN  
A LUNCH  
TODAY?

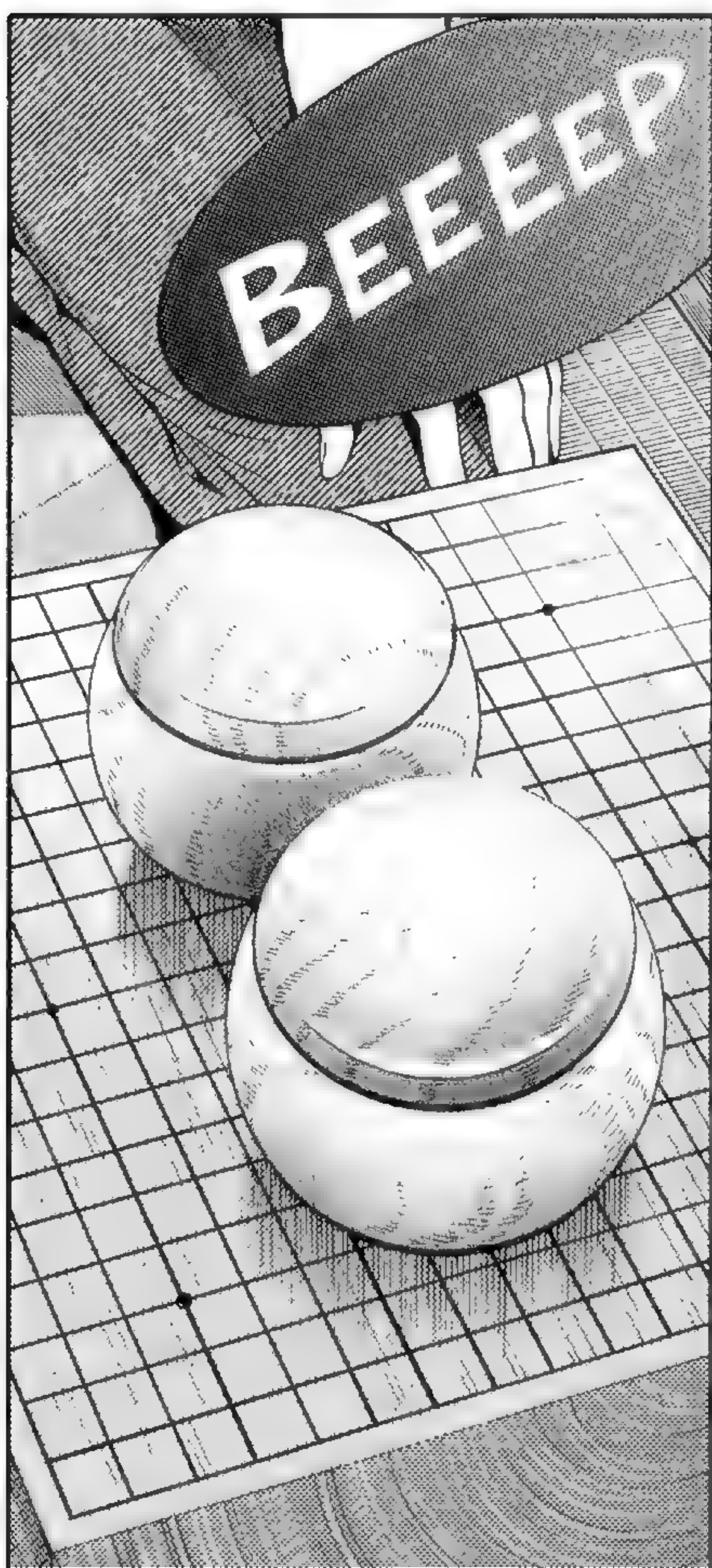




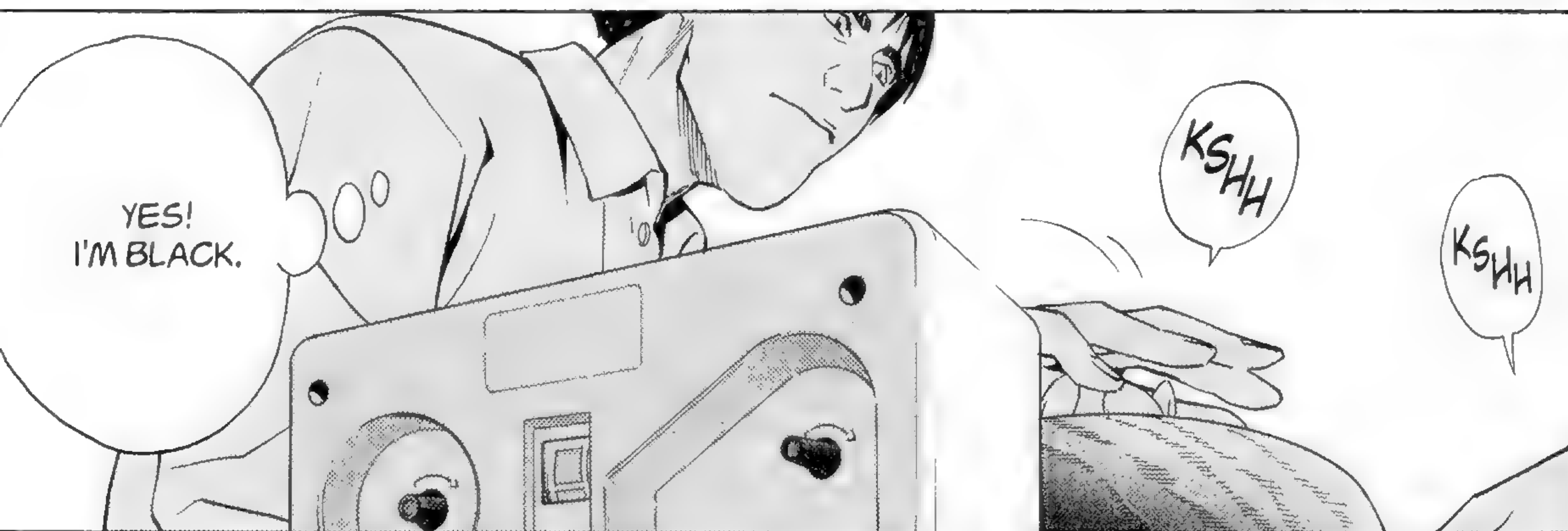




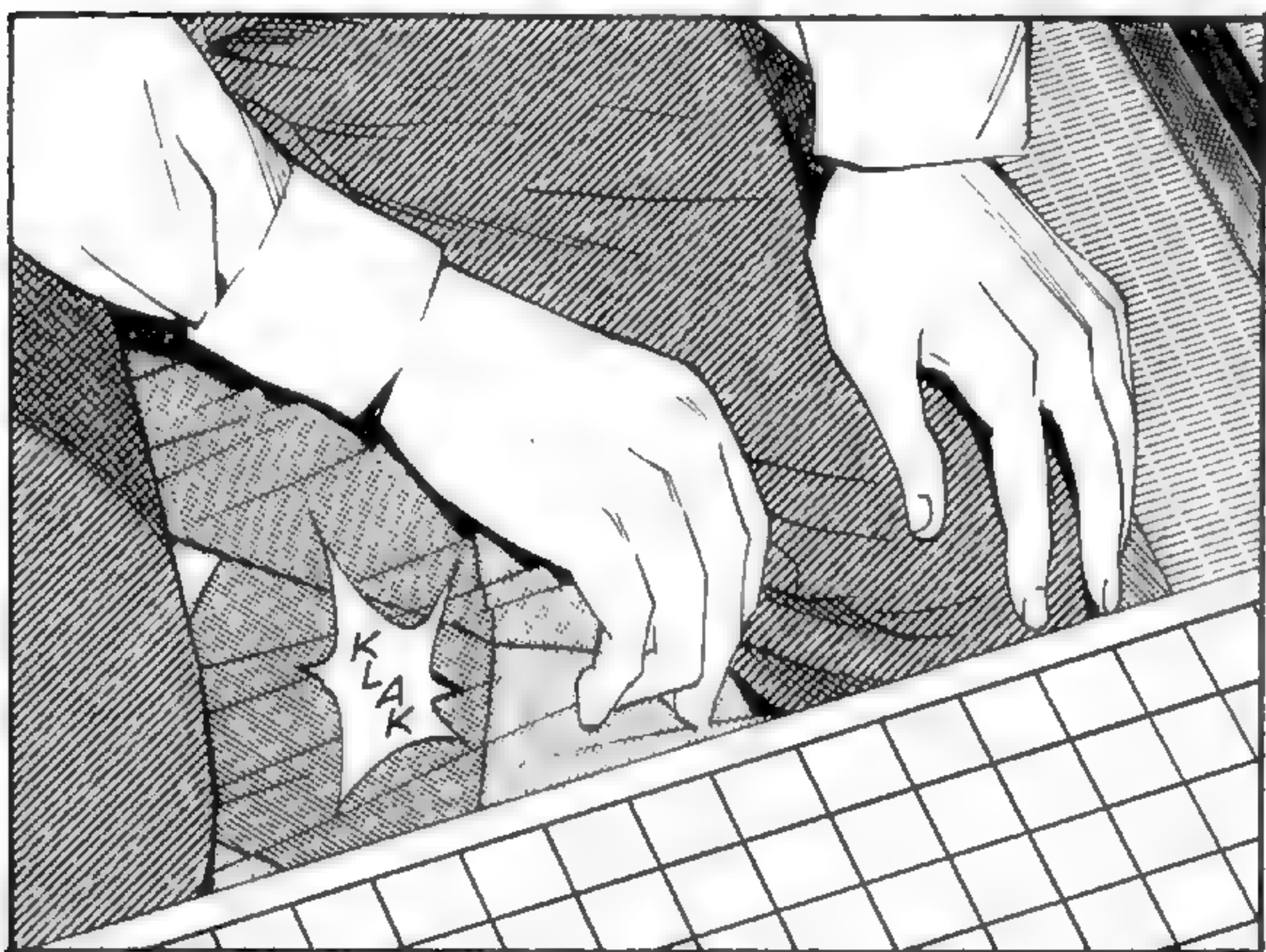




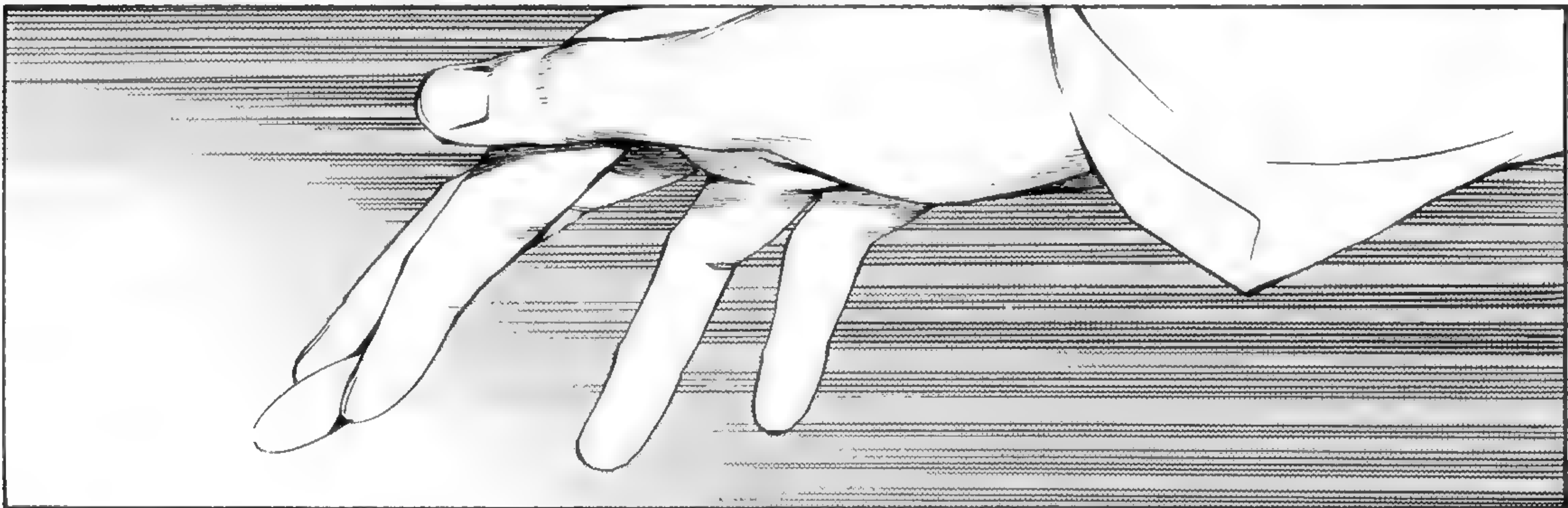












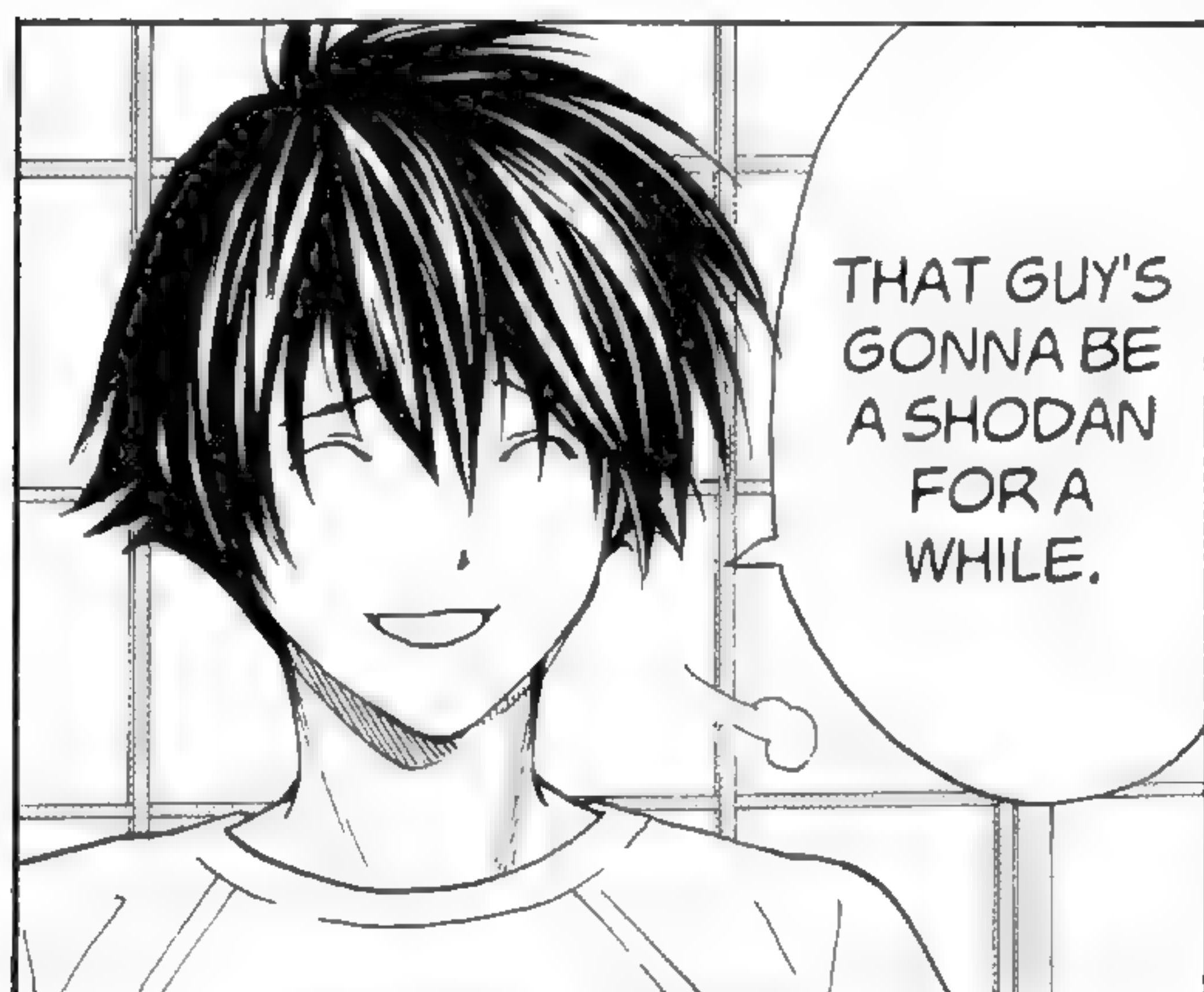




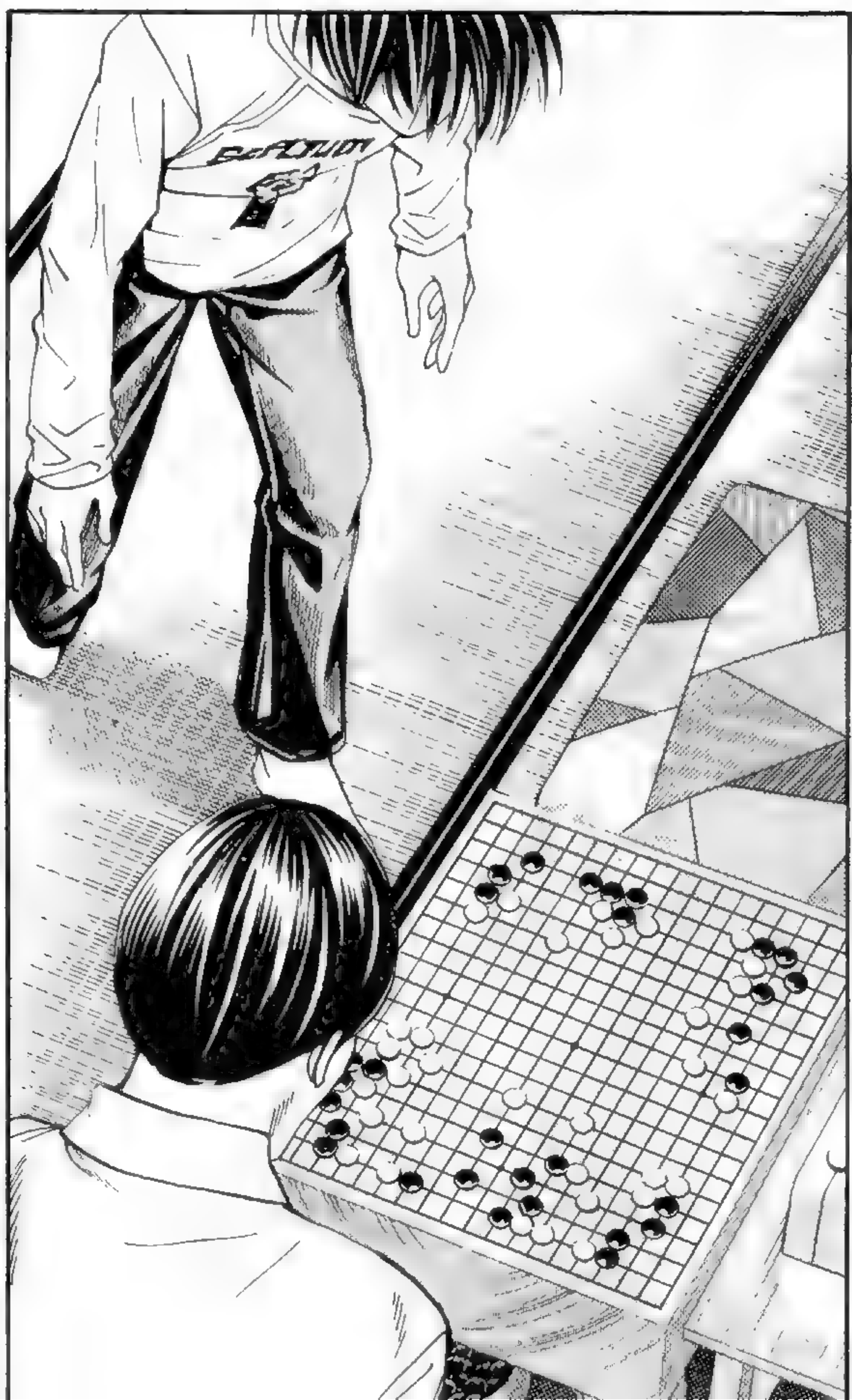
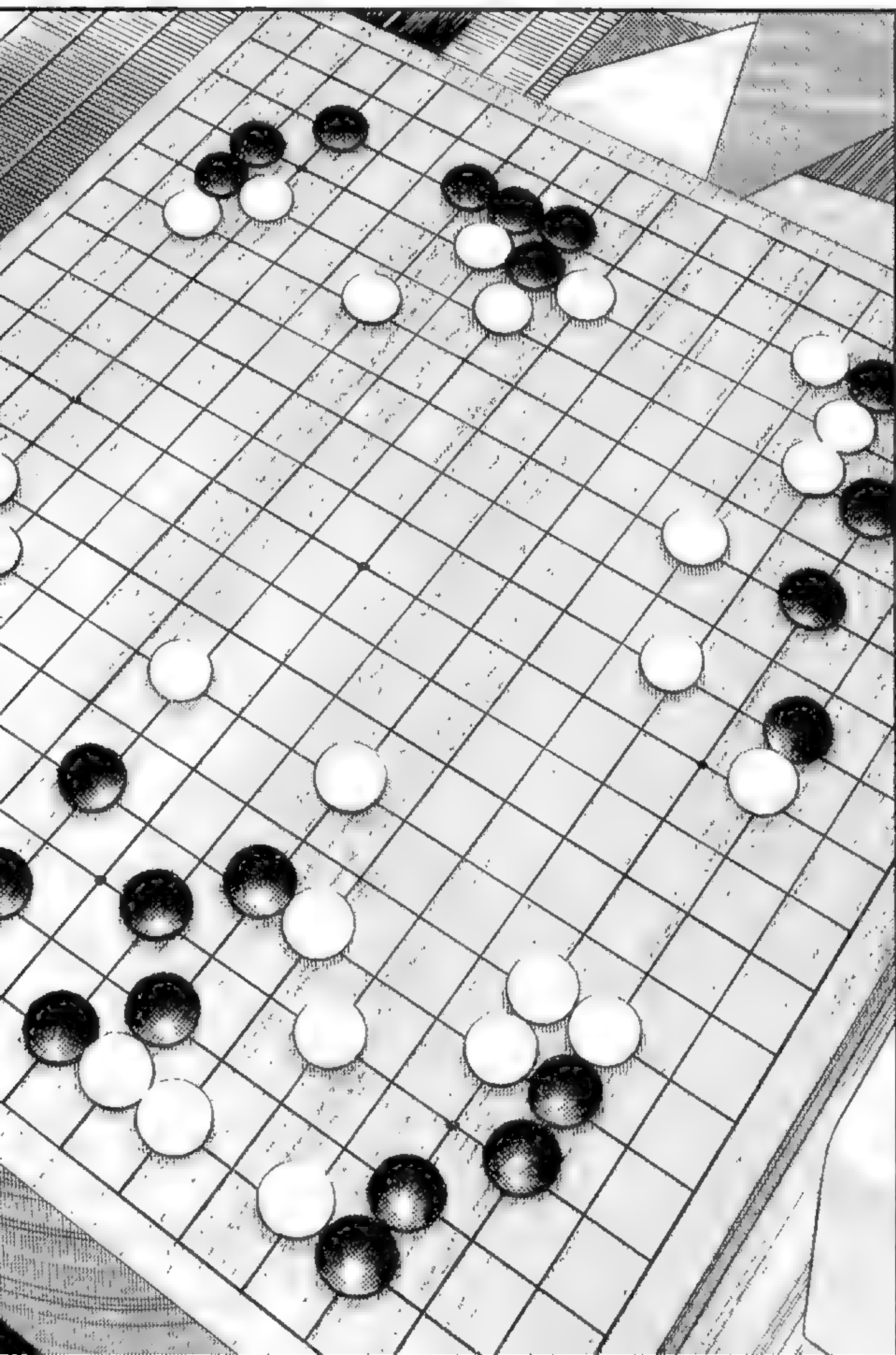




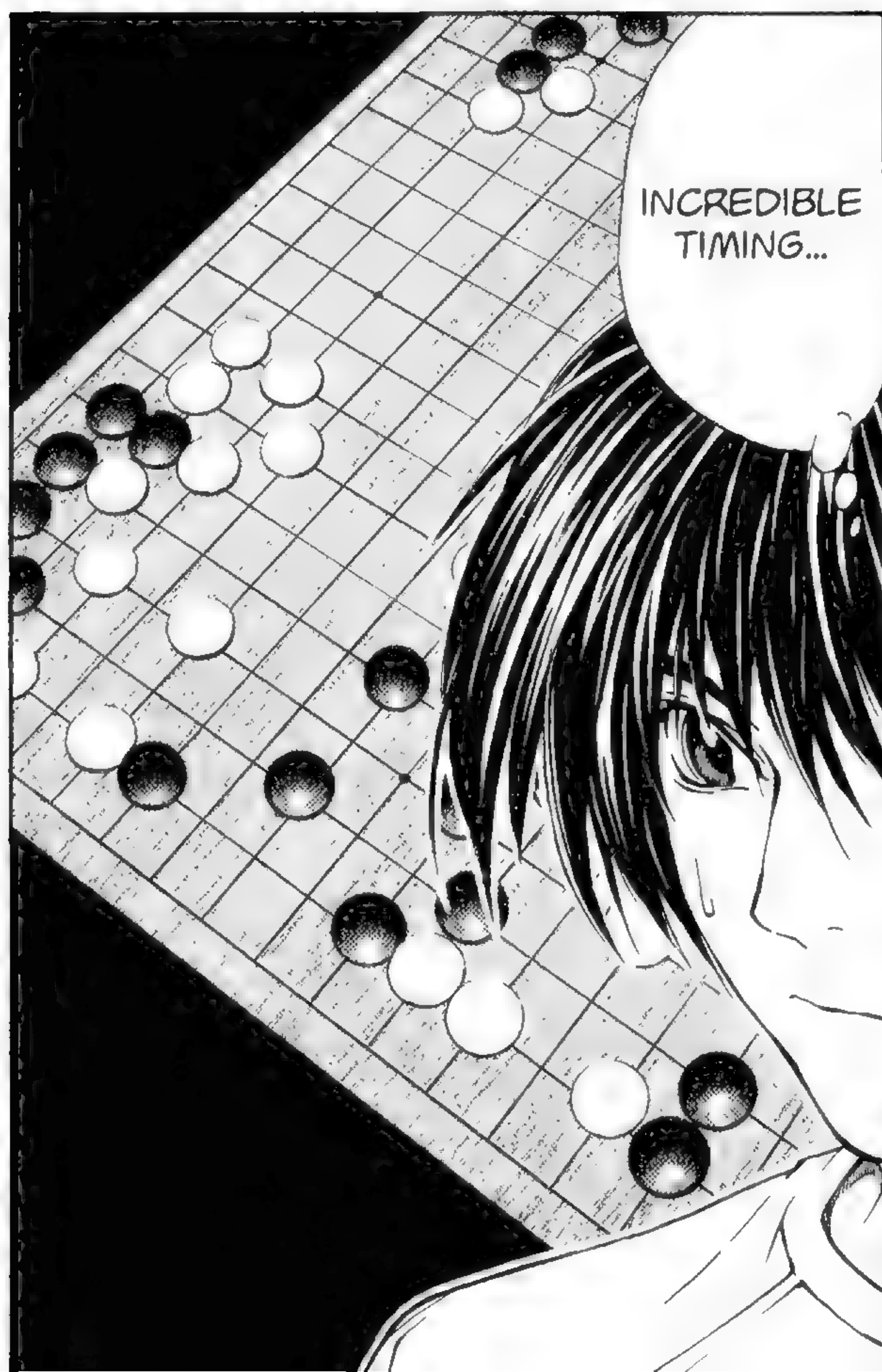




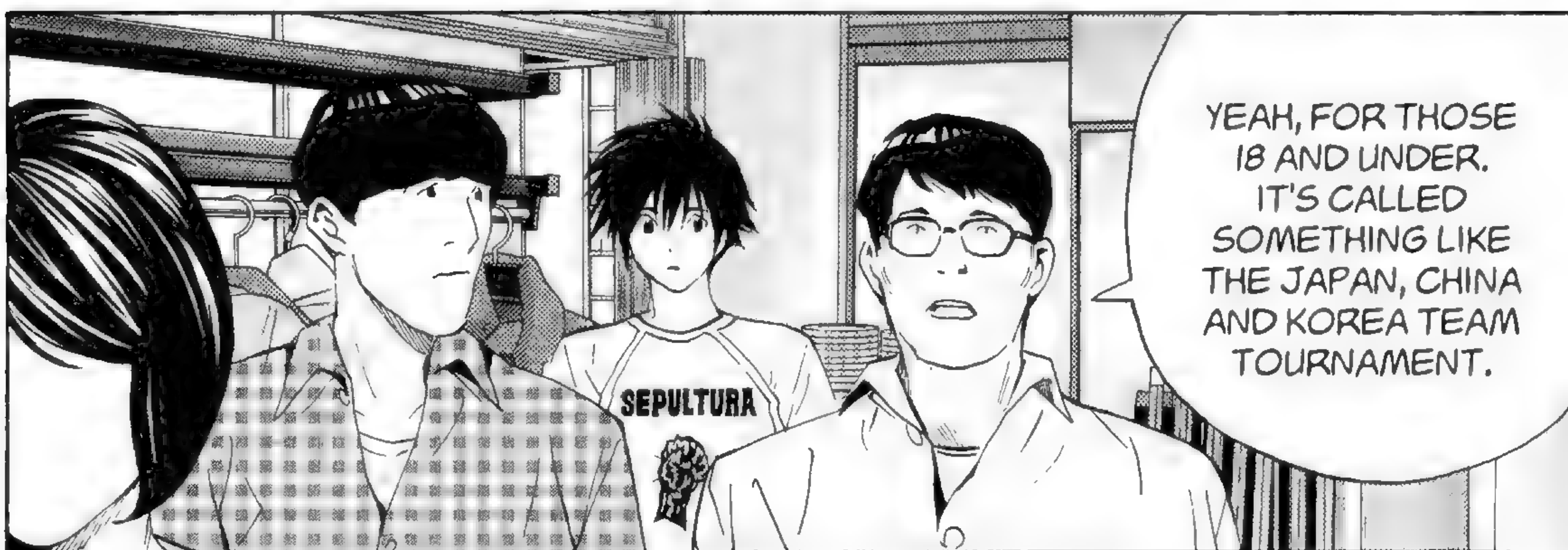




















LOW-RANKED  
PLAYERS LIKE  
US WILL GET  
OUR CHANCE  
TO PLAY ON  
THE BIG  
STAGE!

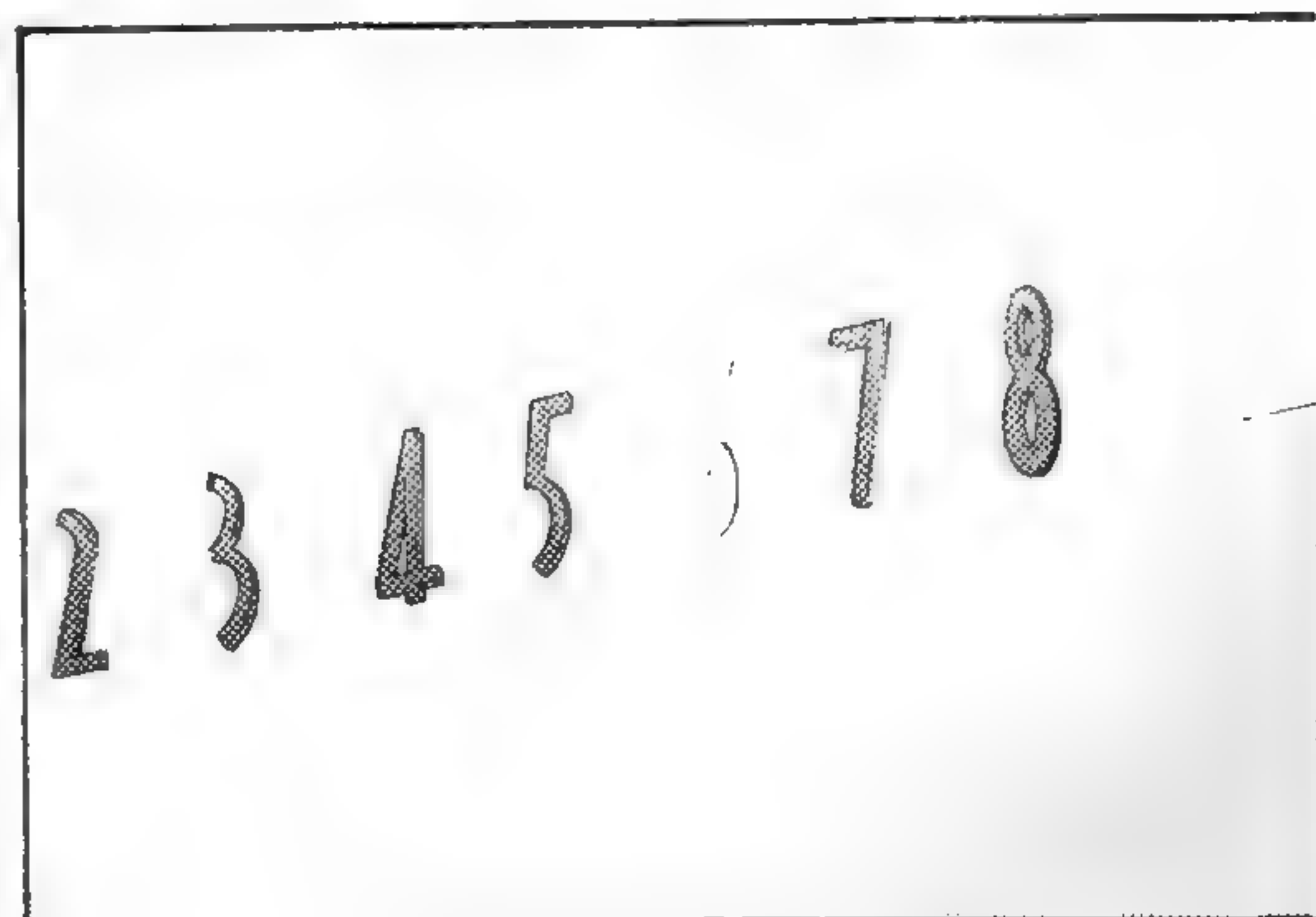


BUT HOW  
WILL THEY  
DECIDE  
WHO'LL BE  
ON JAPAN'S  
TEAM?

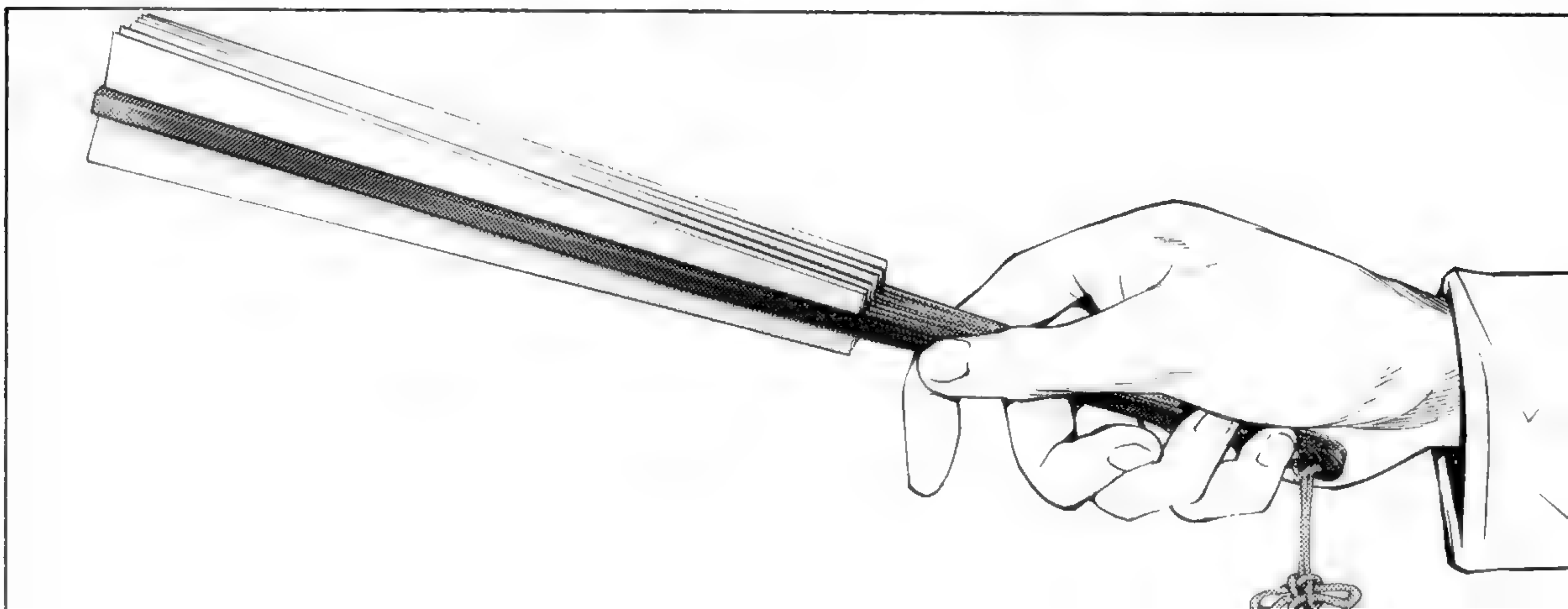
I BET  
THEY'LL HAVE  
A QUALIFYING  
TOURNAMENT  
OR SOME-  
THING.



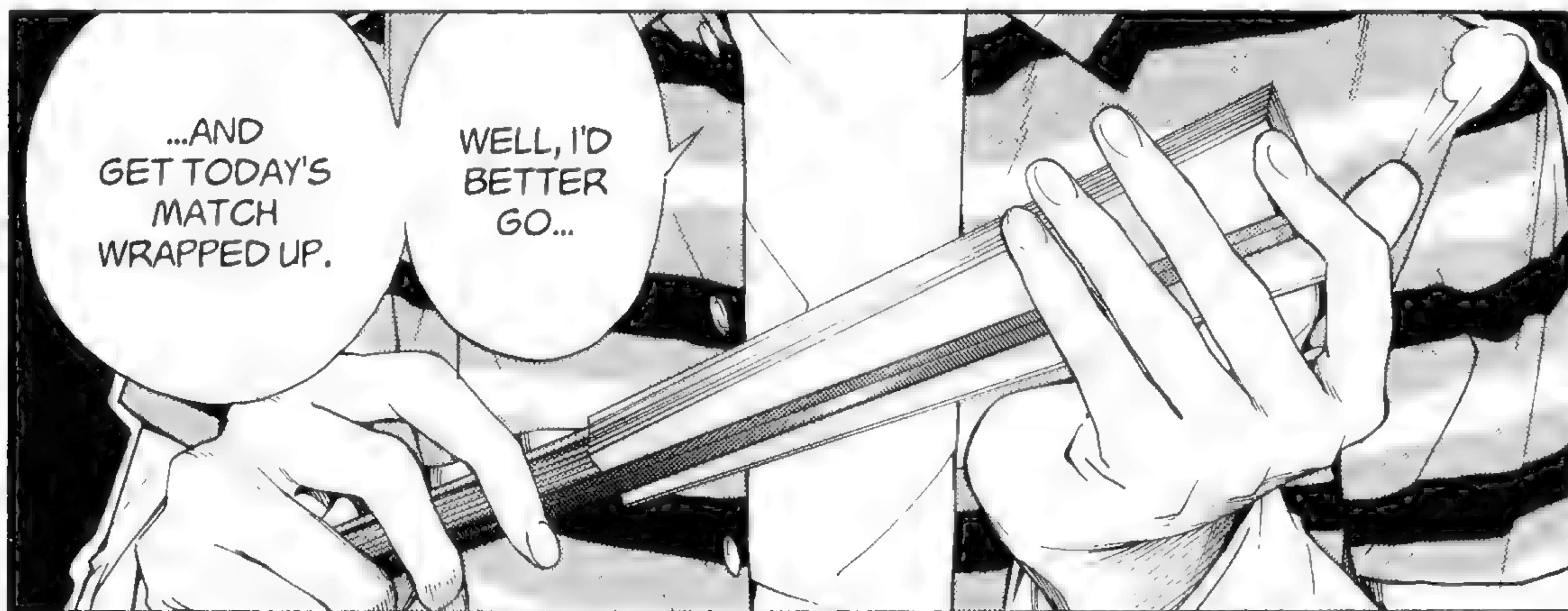
SHINDO'S  
GONNA  
LOVE  
THIS!























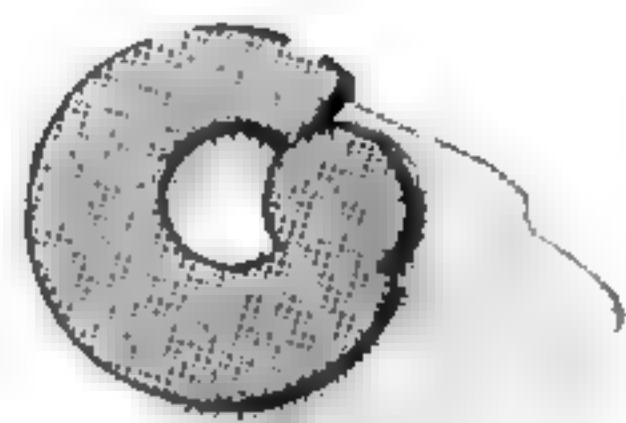




## Game 150 "A Big Stage"





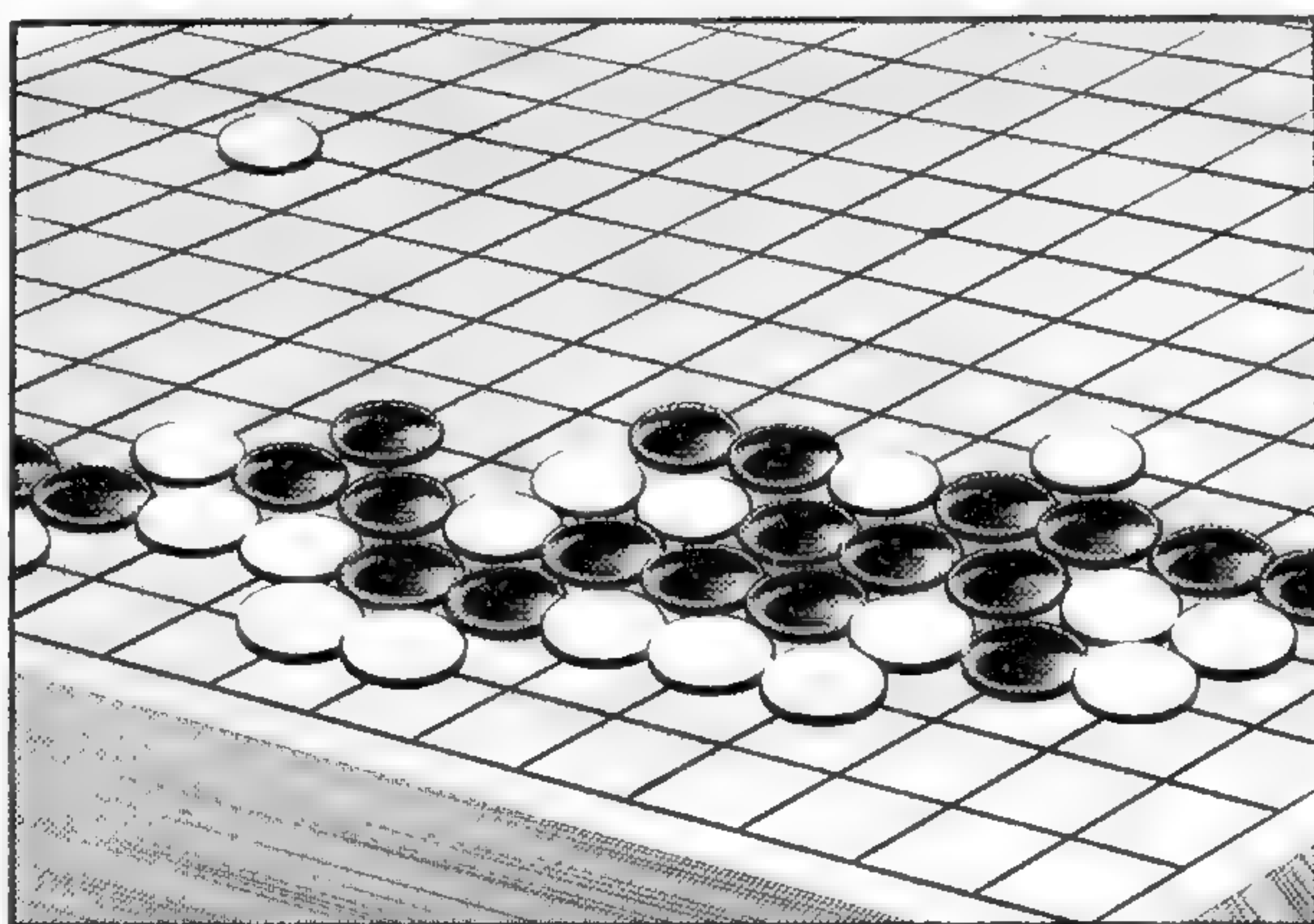


# JAPAN GO ASSOCIATION

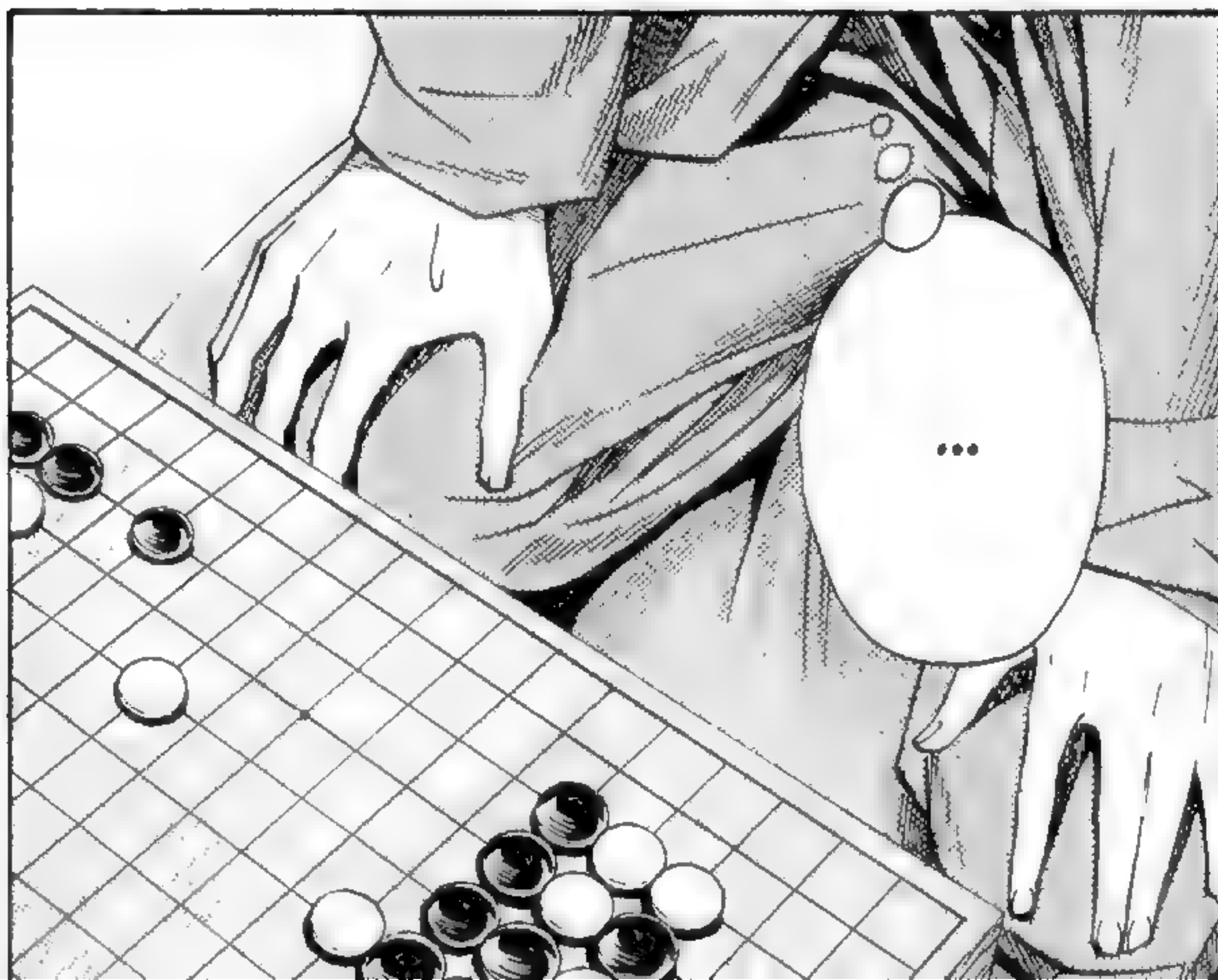
DECEMBER









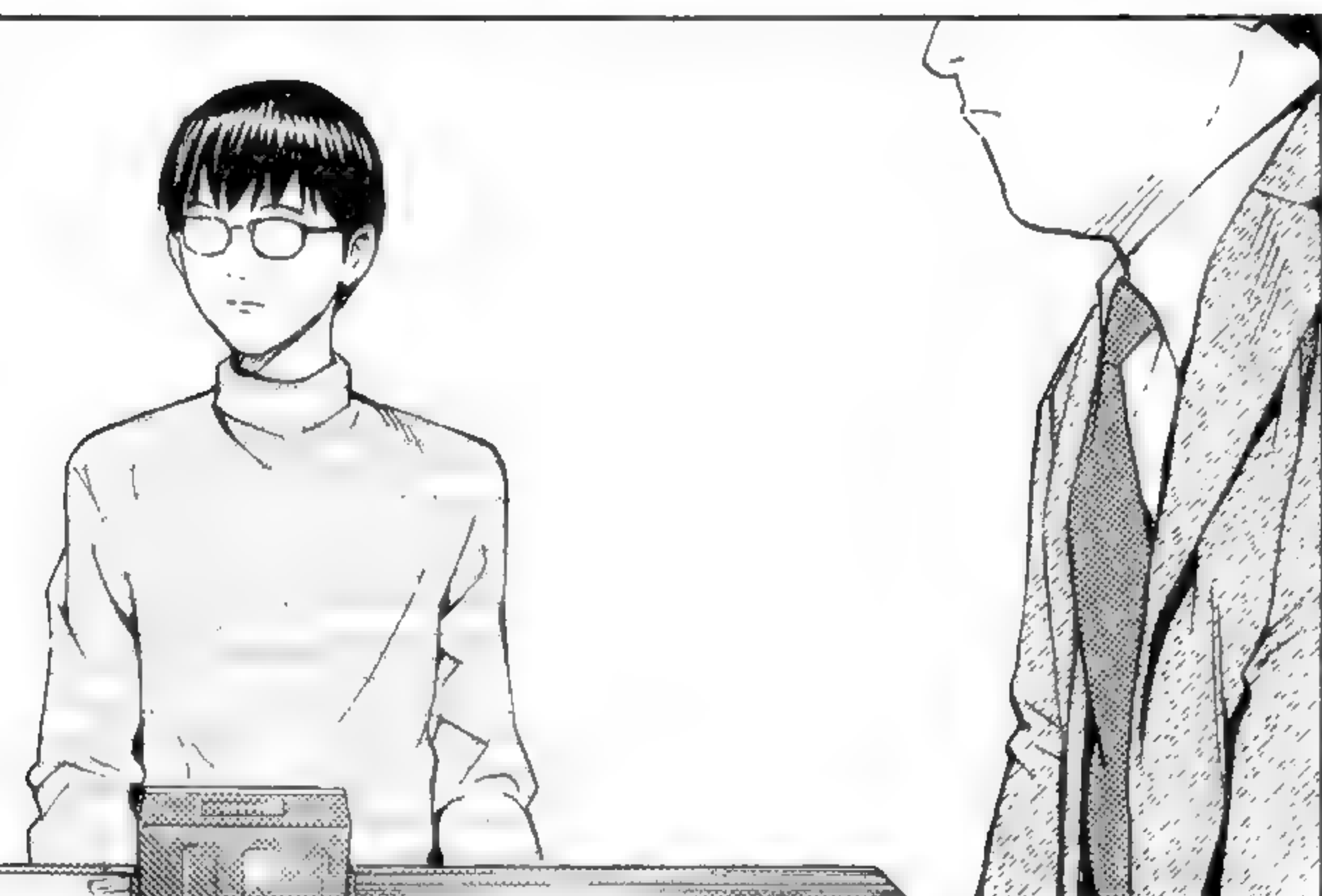




READ  
THIS  
WAY

WHAT  
WILL  
TOYA  
DO?

IF BLACK  
JUMPS AND  
WHITE  
UNEXPECTEDLY  
ATTACHES,  
THEN WHITE  
WILL BE  
ATTACKED.



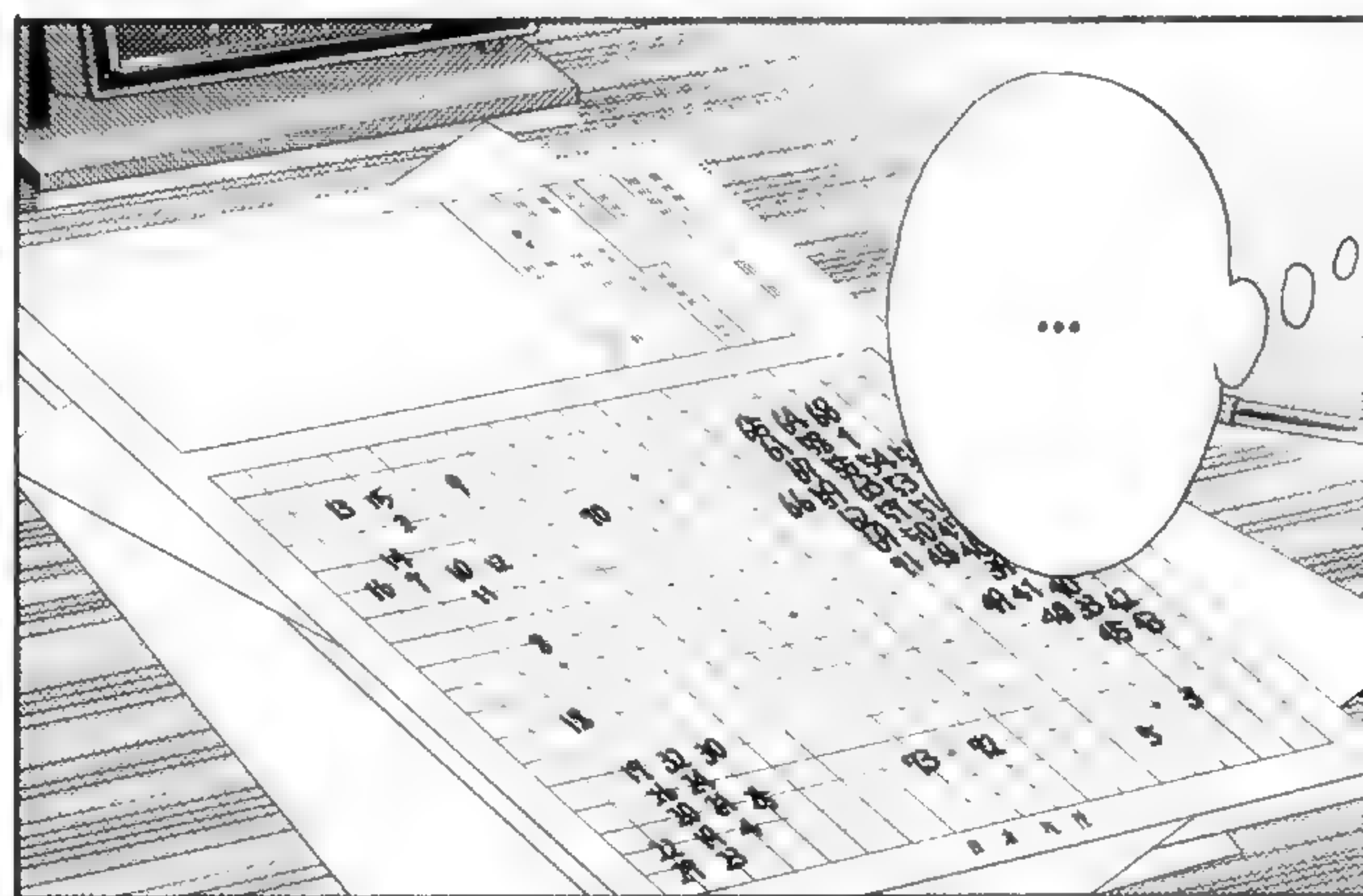
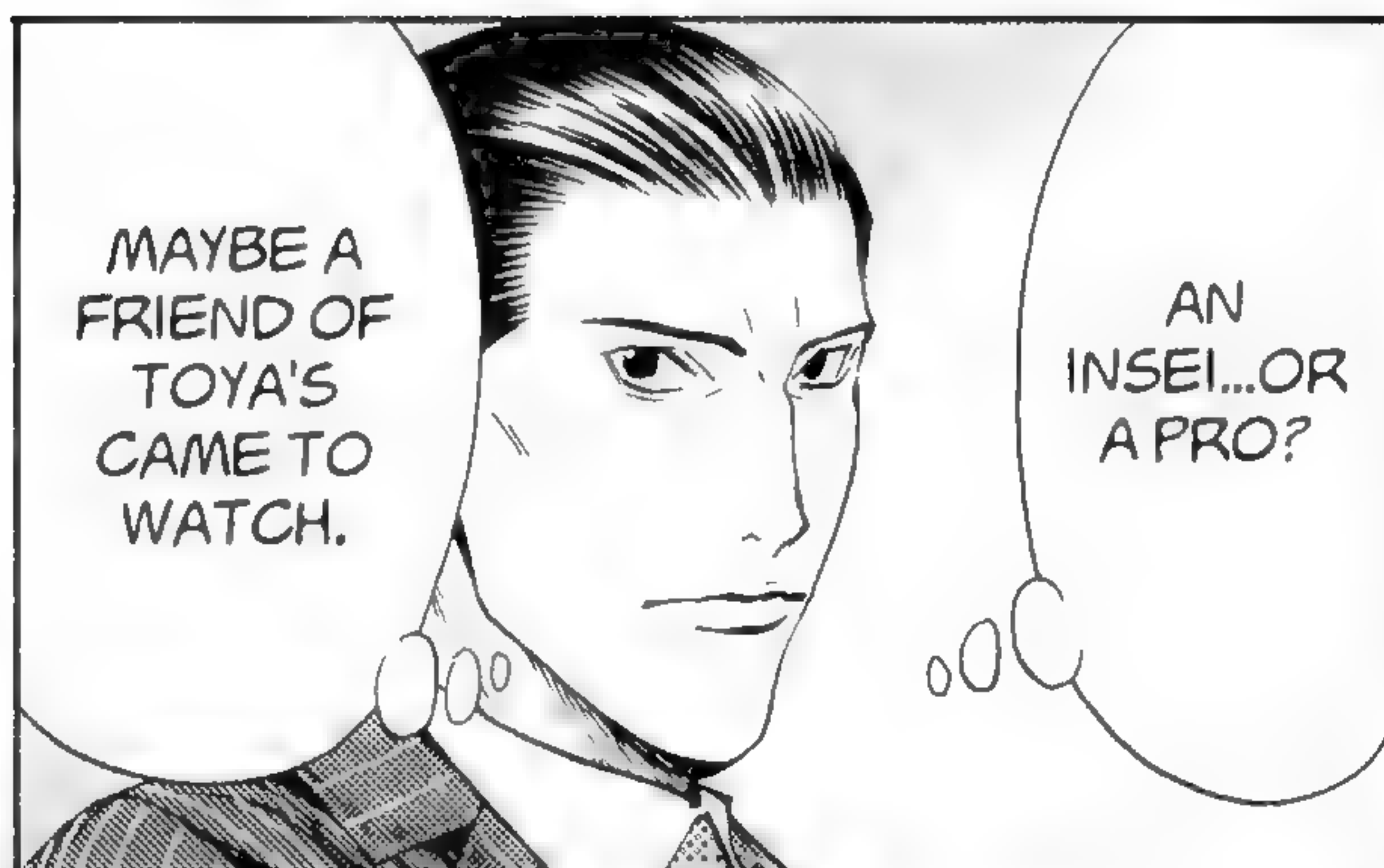
IF THINGS  
GO THE  
SAME WAY  
TODAY, THEN  
TOYA'S NO  
ONE I HAVE  
TO WORRY  
ABOUT.

TOYA  
SEEMED  
UNABLE TO  
MUSTER THE  
STRENGTH  
HE NEEDED  
IN HIS GAME  
WITH ZAMA  
SENSEI.

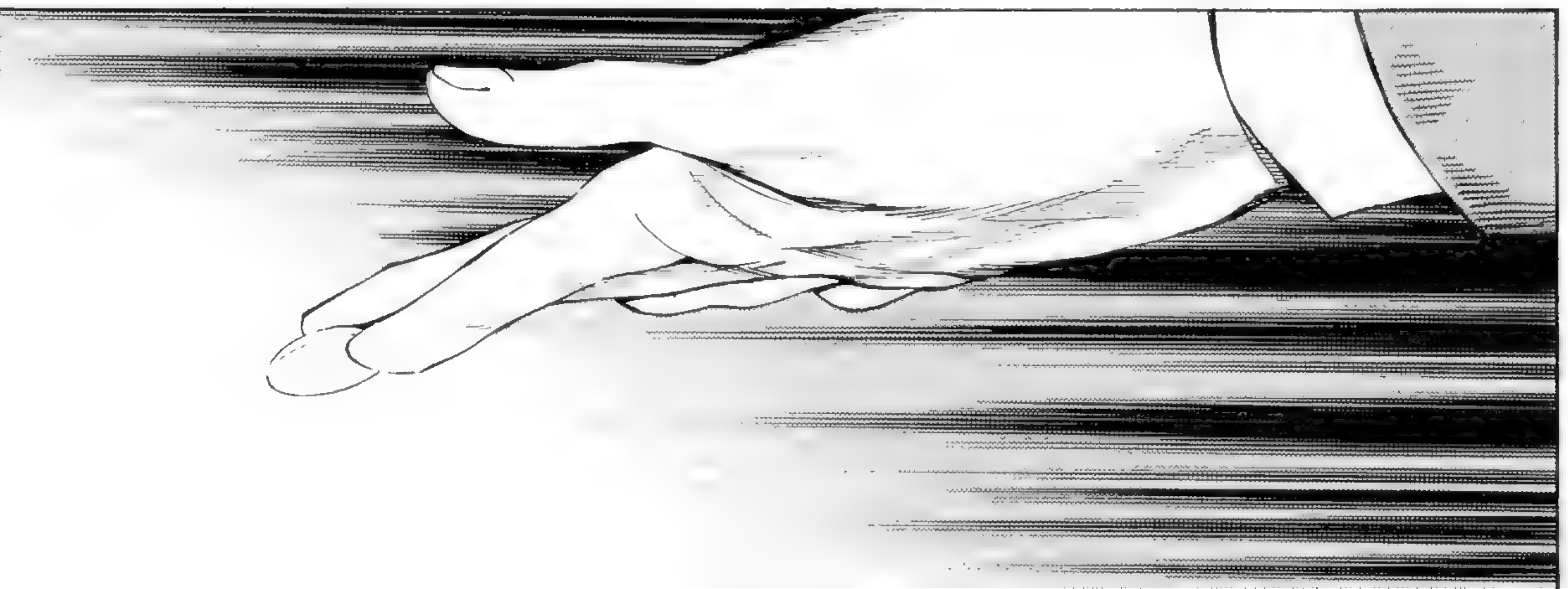
I SUPPOSE  
I SHOULD  
BE  
GRATEFUL.

IT'S BEEN  
AGES SINCE  
I'VE SEEN A  
NEW PRO  
POSE A  
REAL  
THREAT.





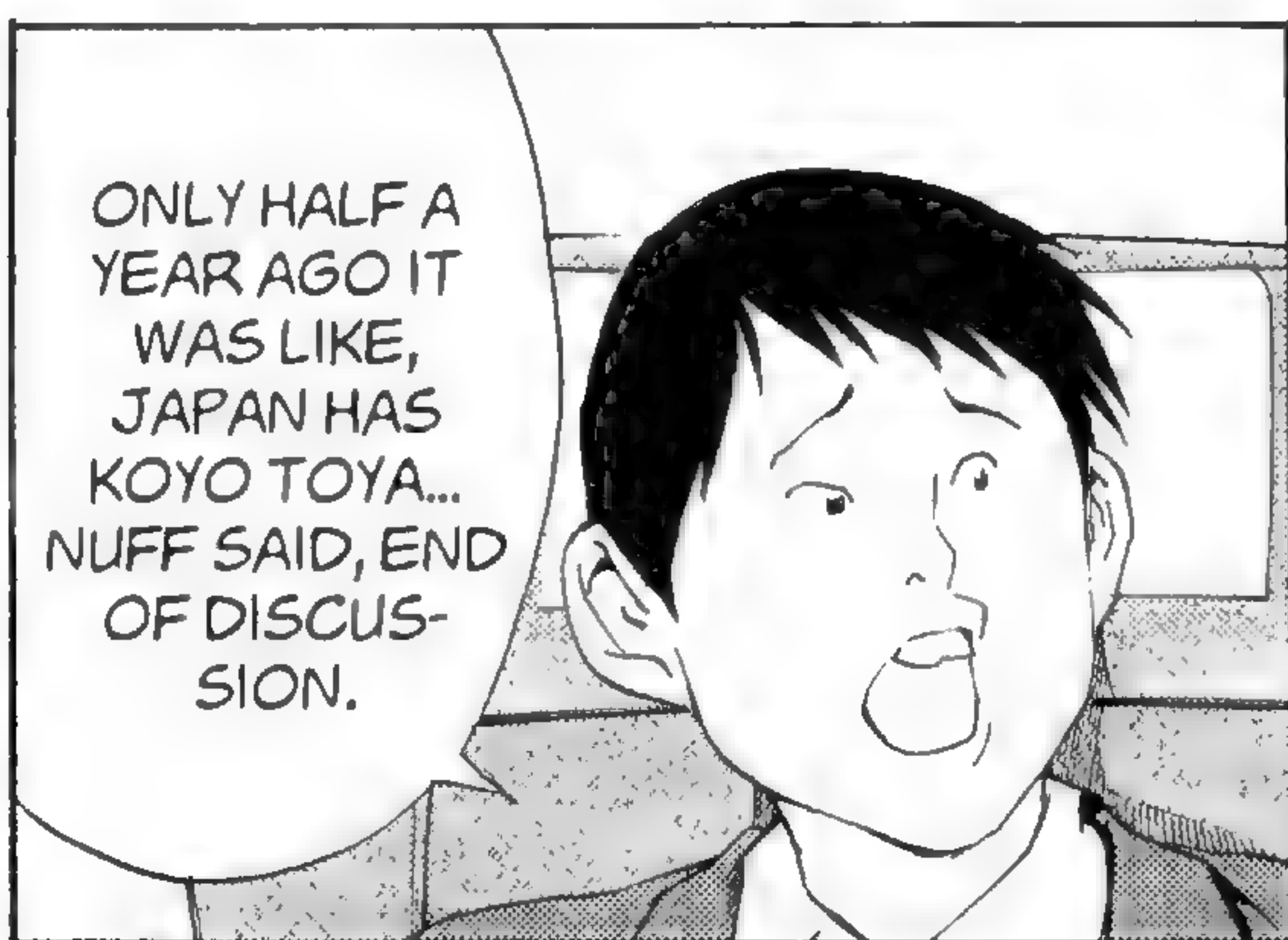












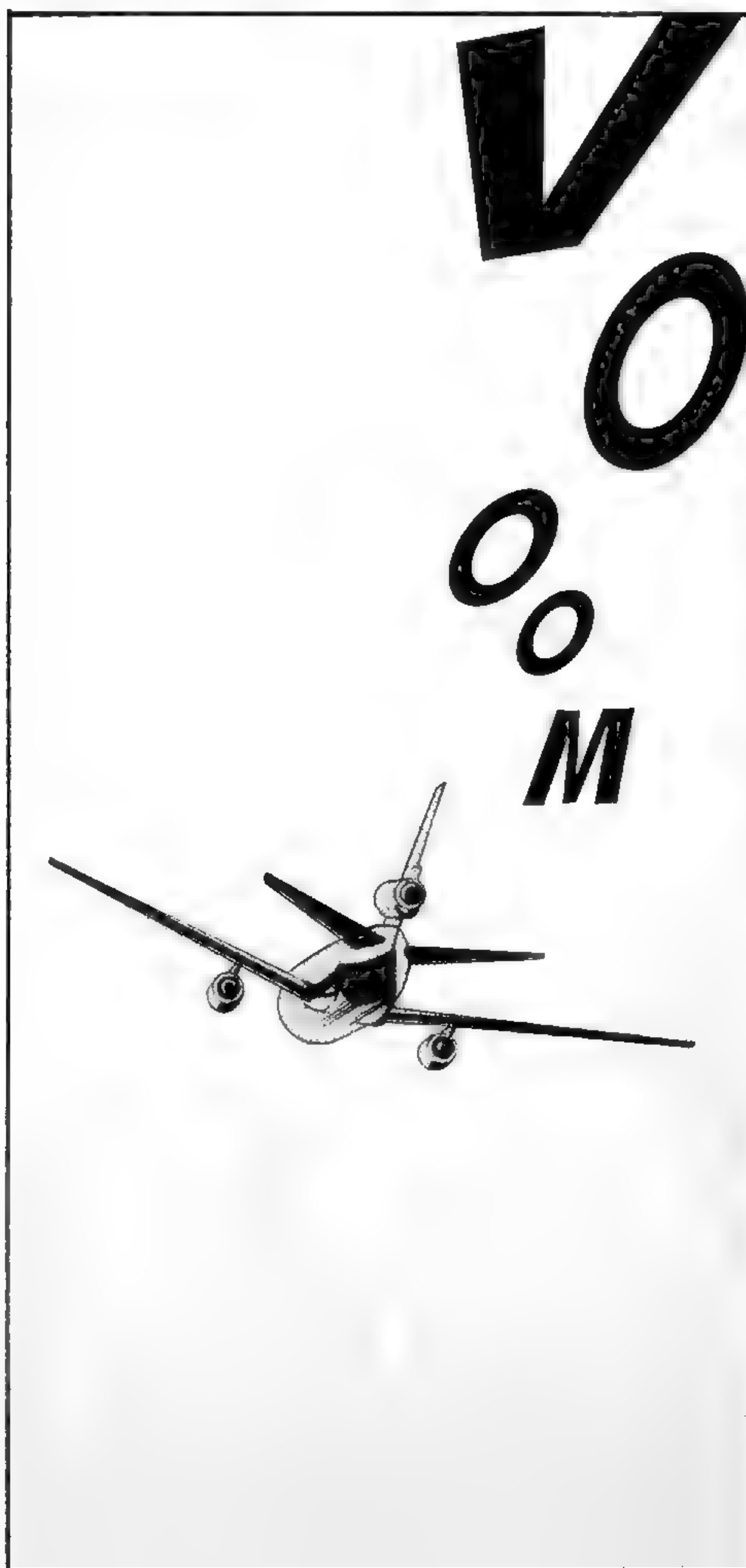




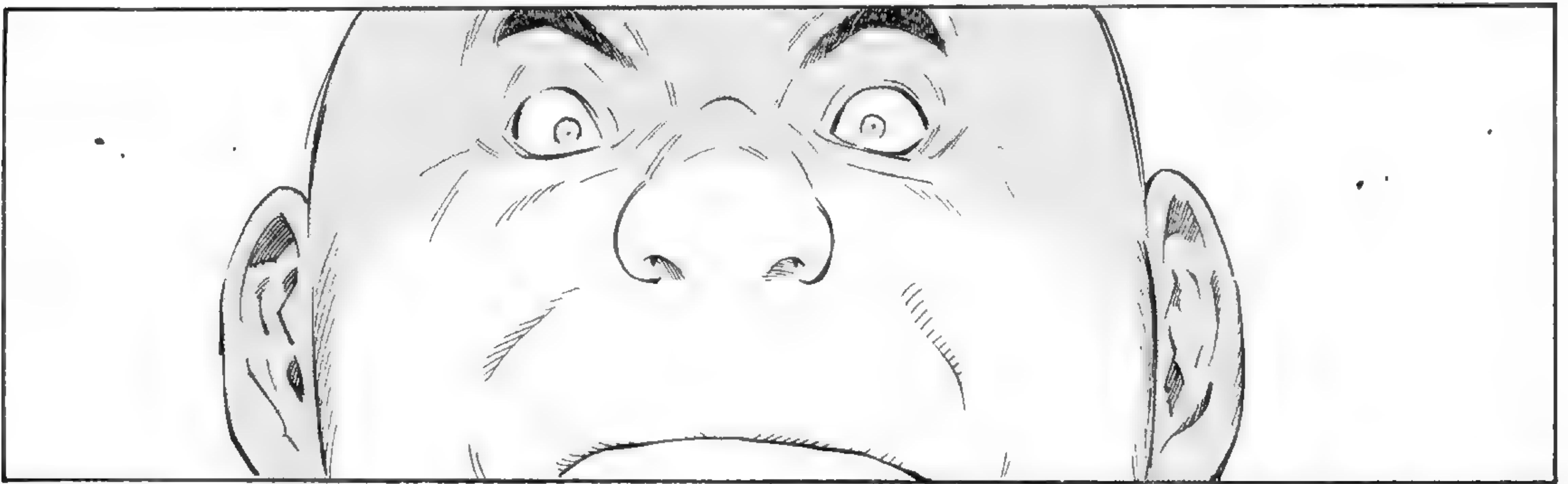
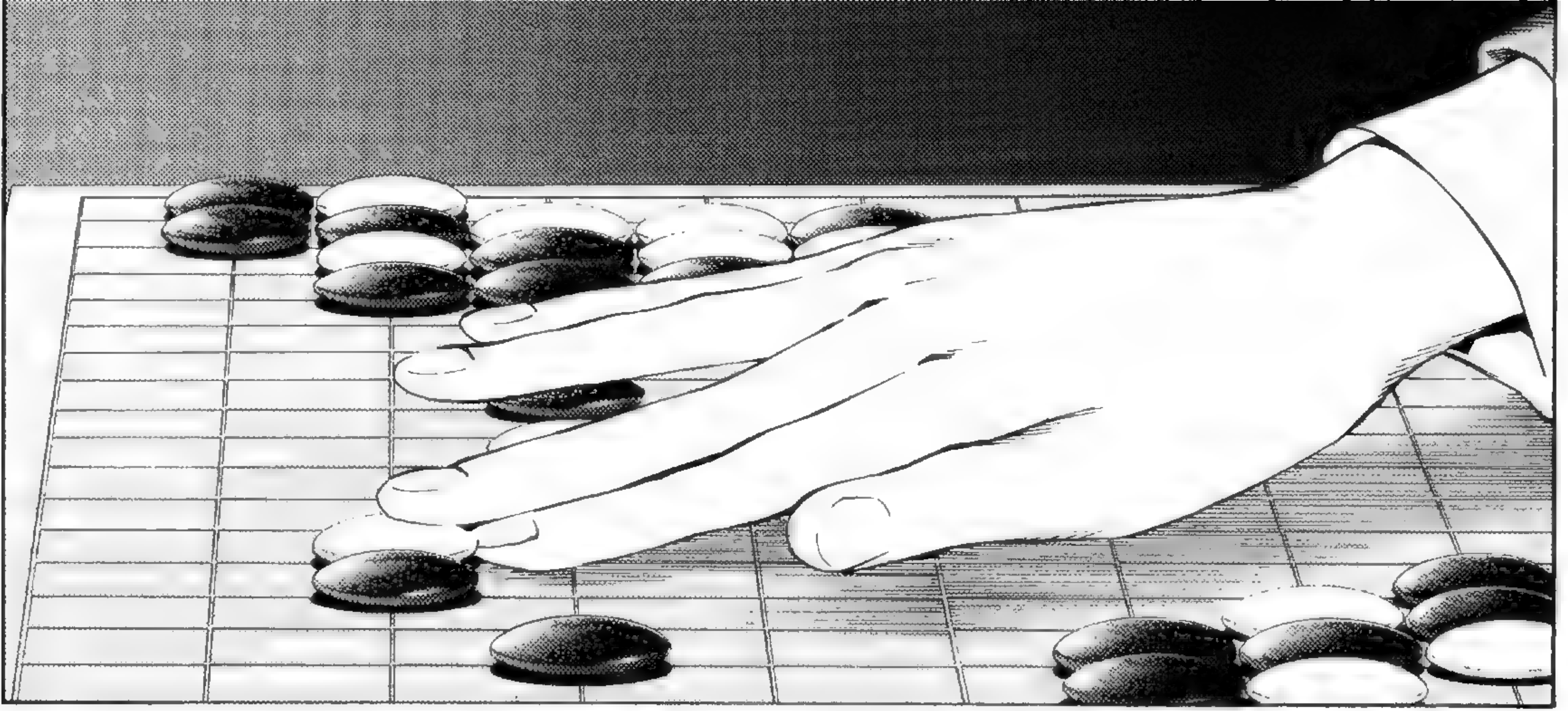




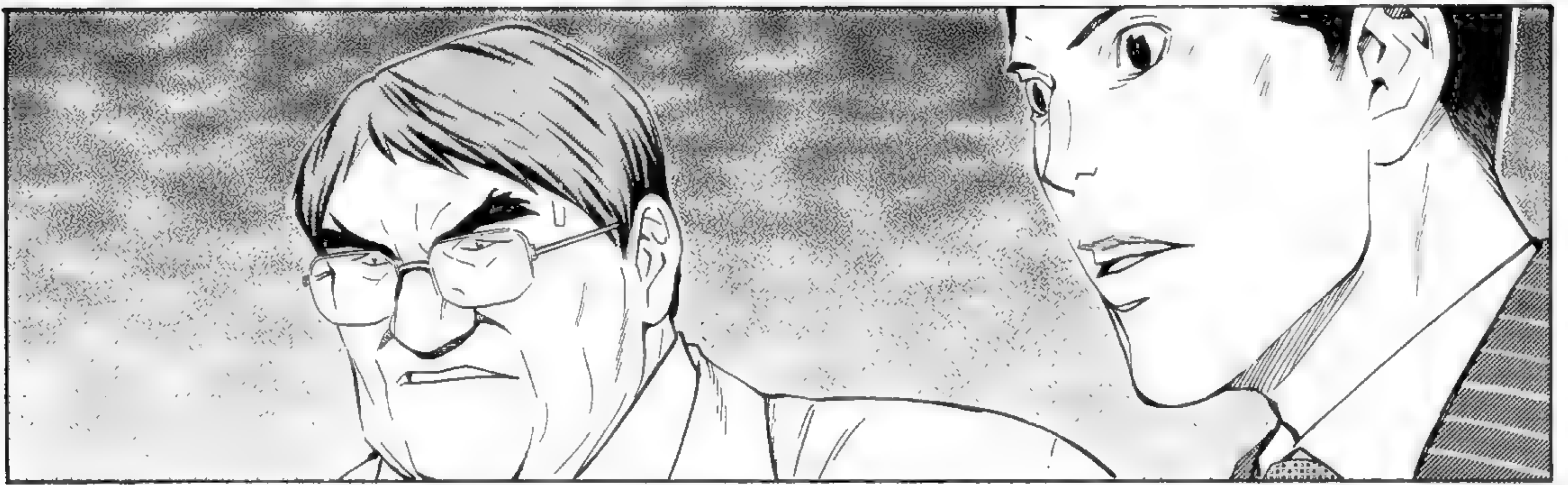




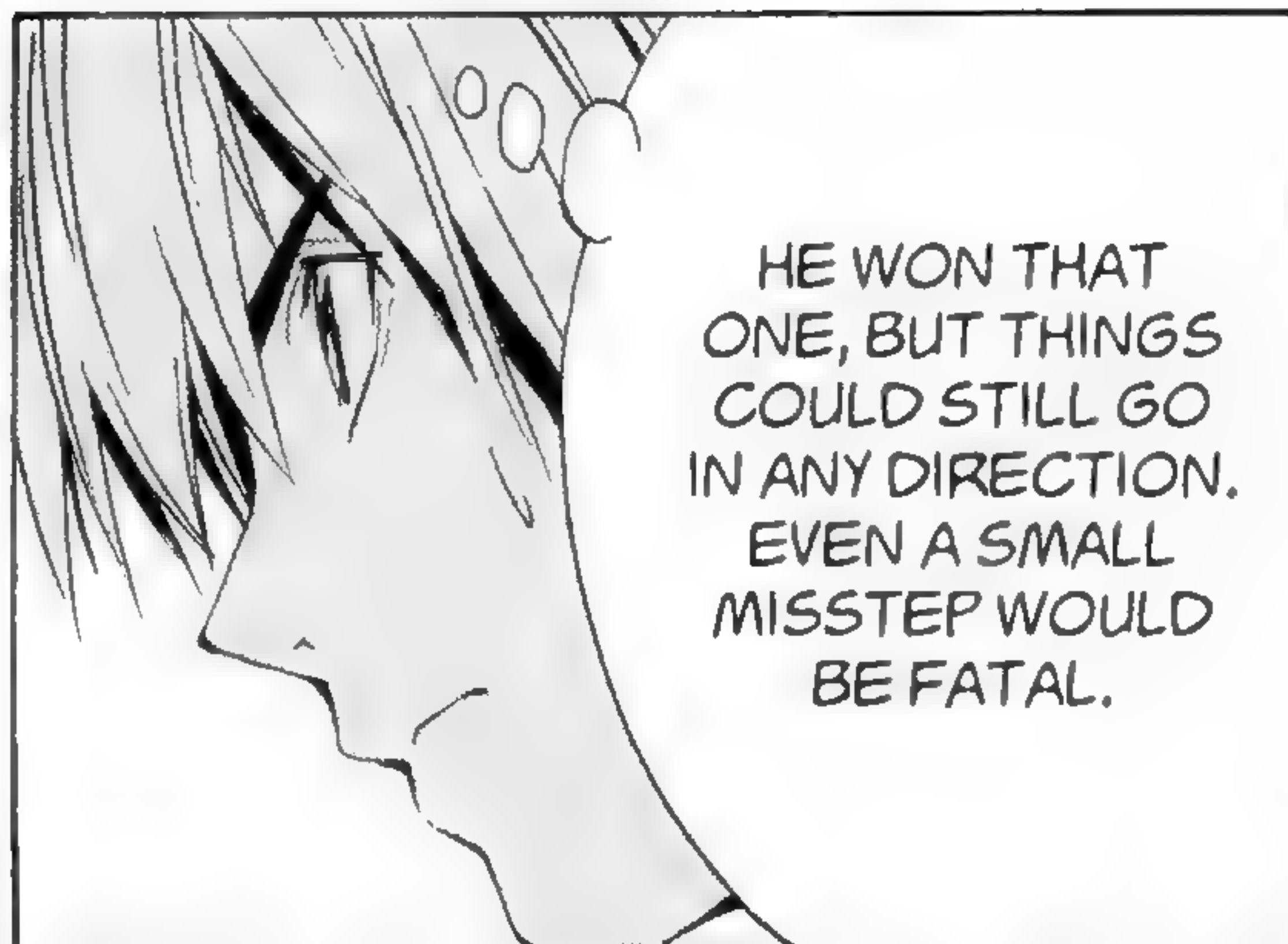




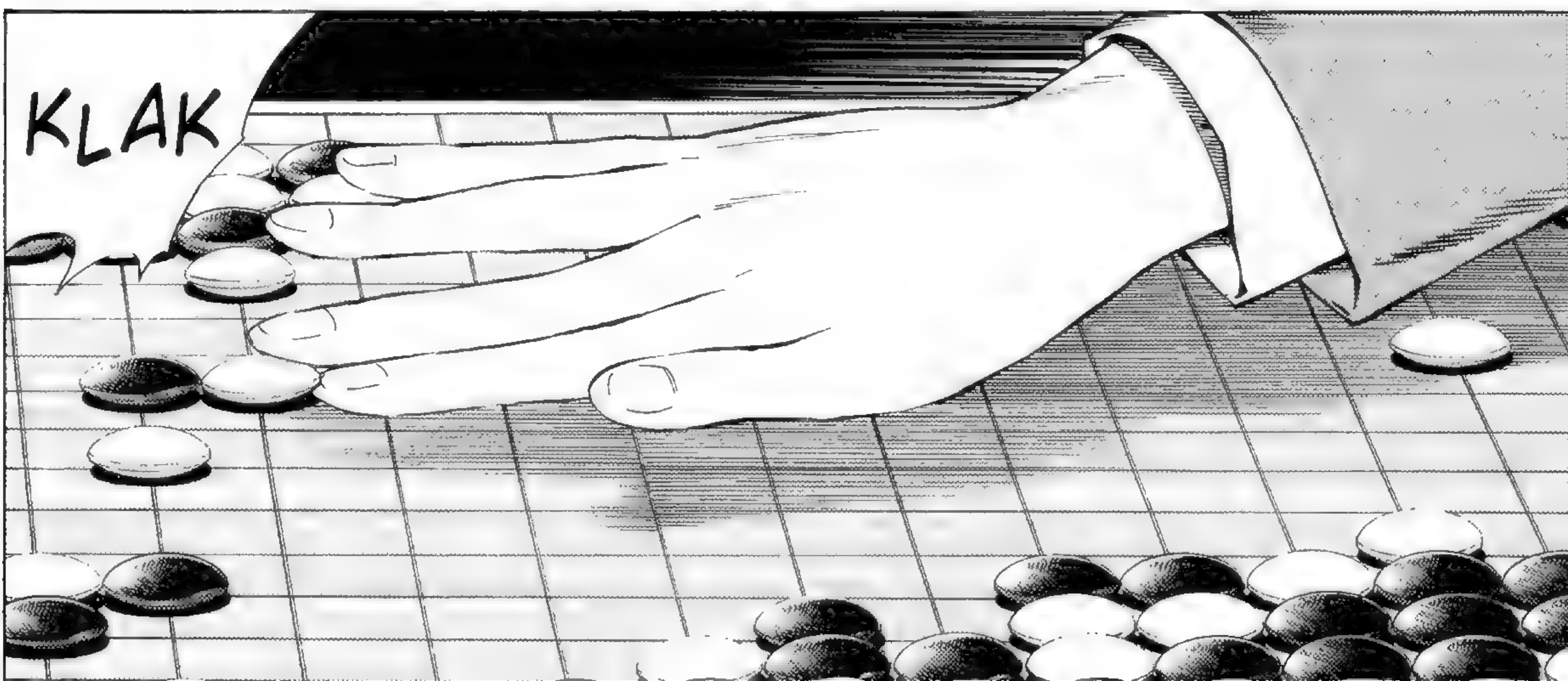










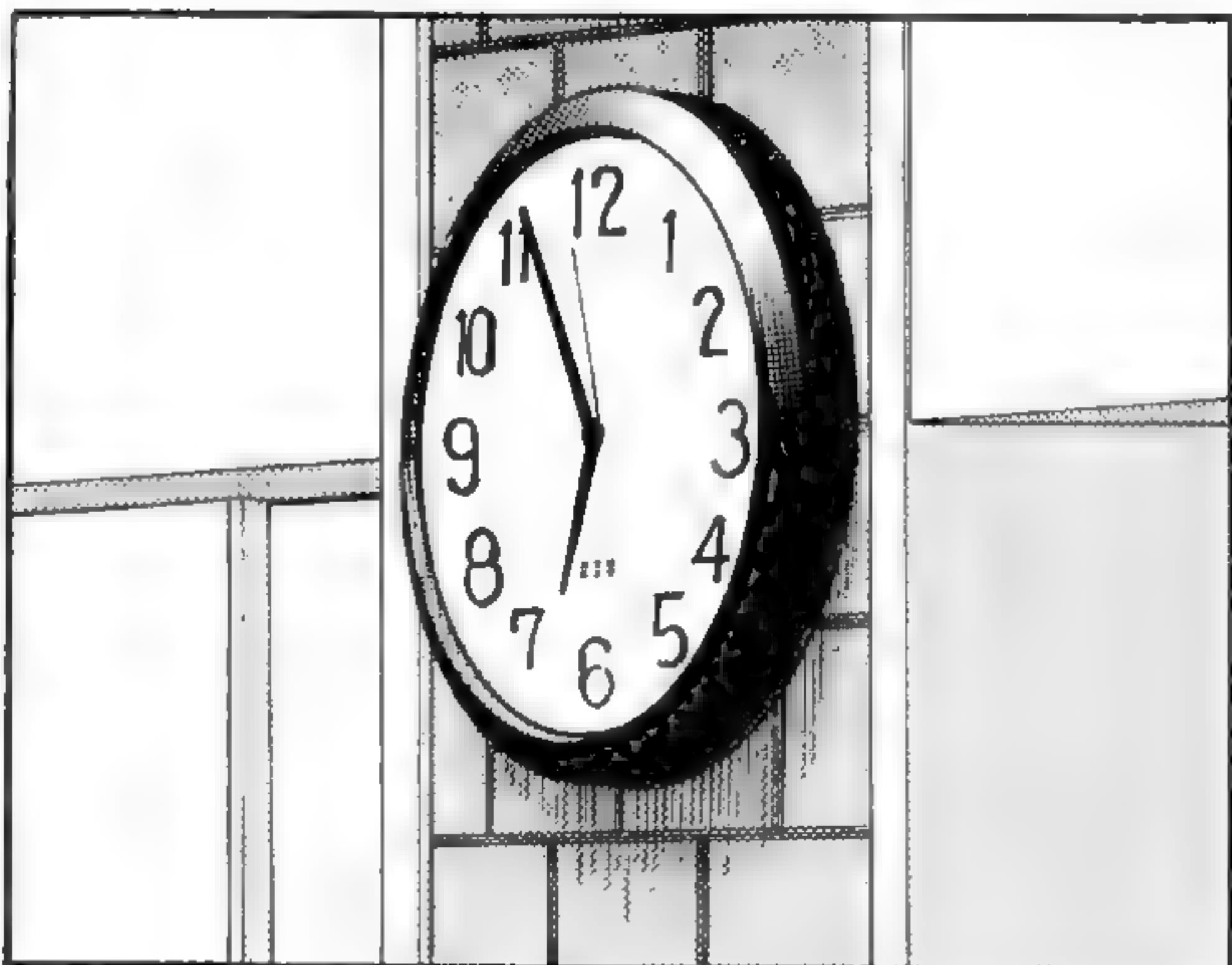




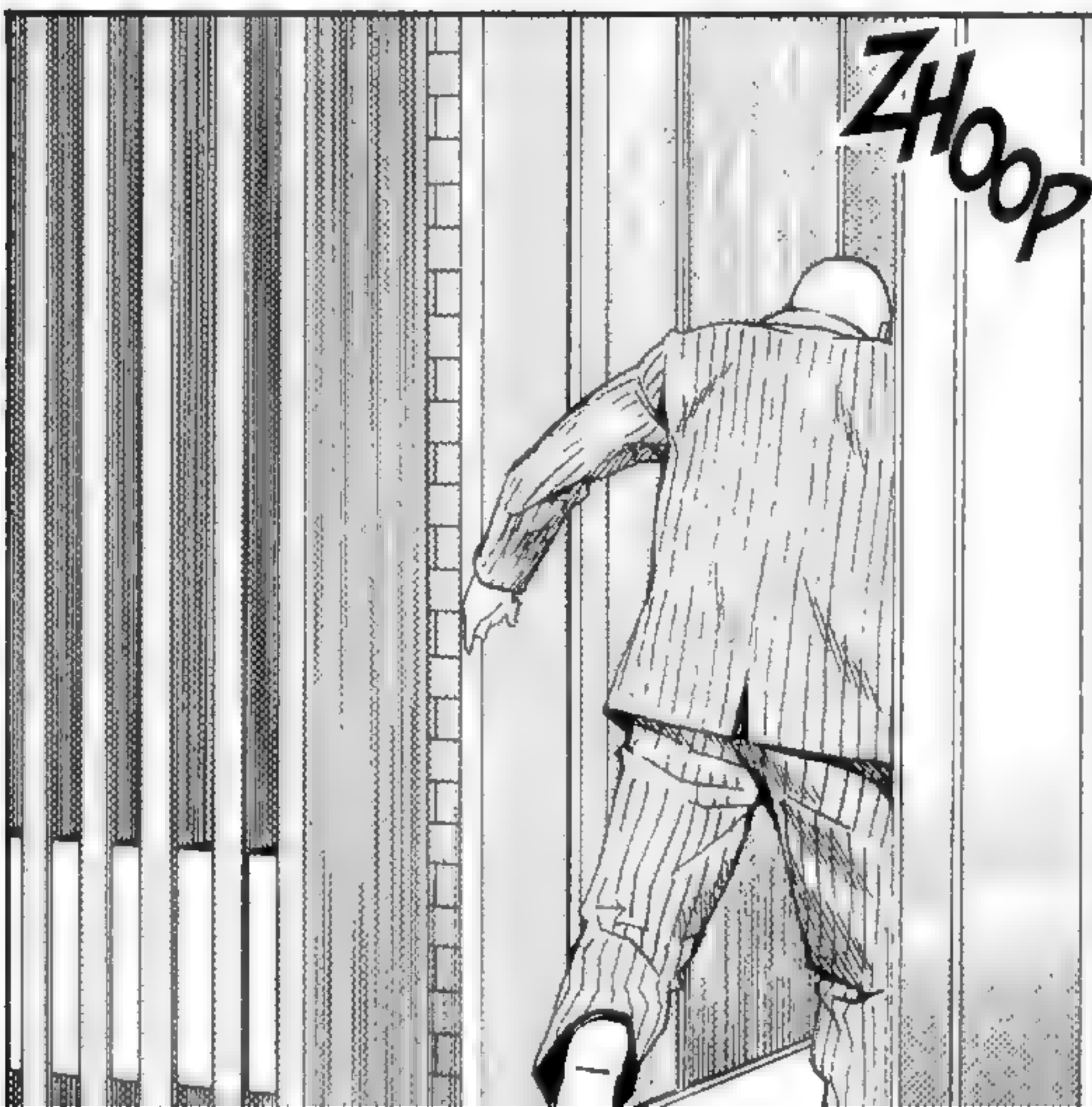
READ  
THIS  
WAY

















HE  
FOUGHT  
ALL THE  
WAY TO  
GAME'S  
END.

...AND  
TOYA'S INNER  
STRENGTH  
THAT RESISTED  
THAT  
PRESSURE.



IT WAS ICHIRYU  
SENSEI'S PRIDE  
THAT MADE HIM  
TRY TO PRESSURE  
HIS OPPONENT...

IT  
WASN'T  
JUST  
THAT  
MOVE...

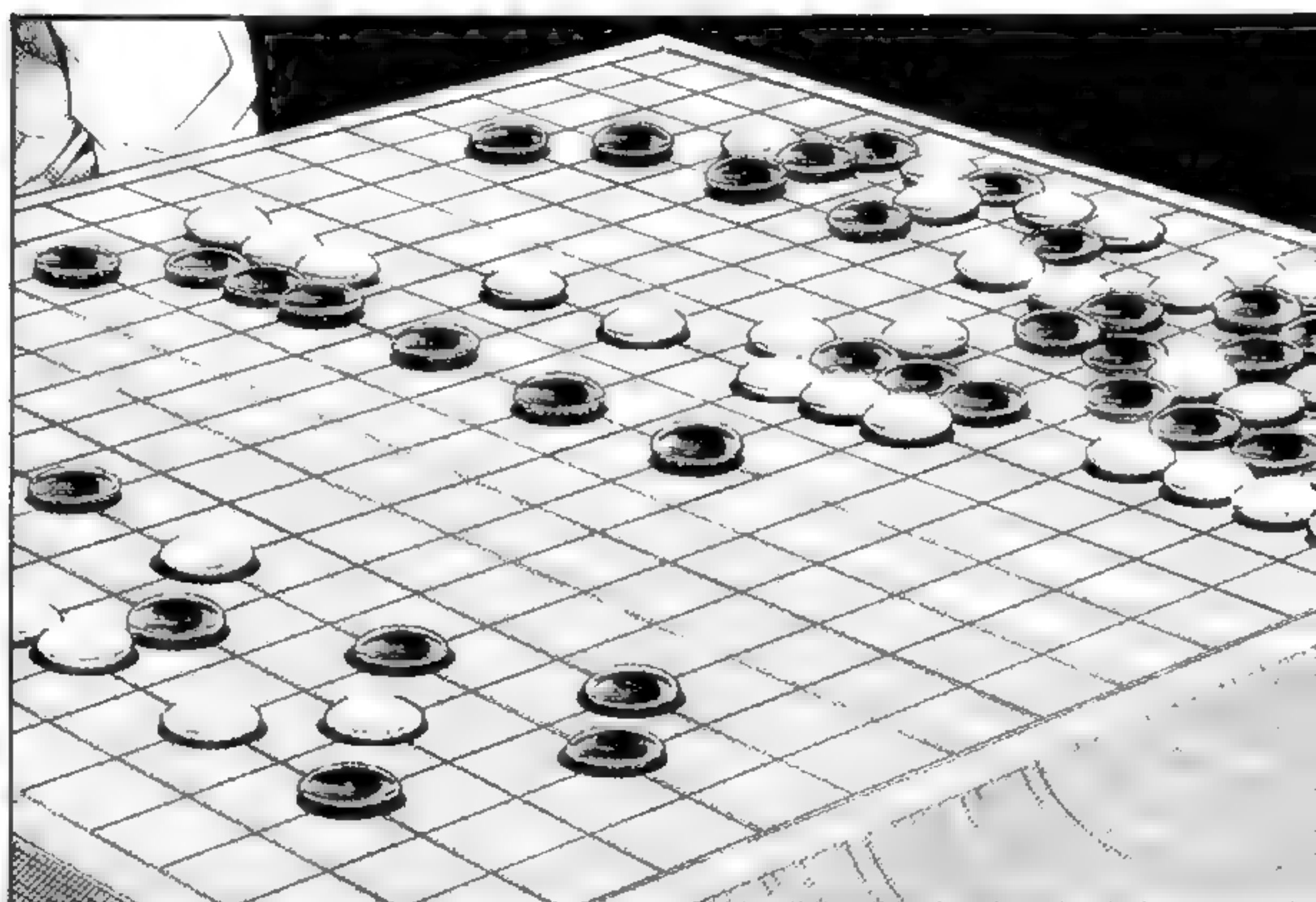


...PLAY  
LIKE THAT  
TOO!

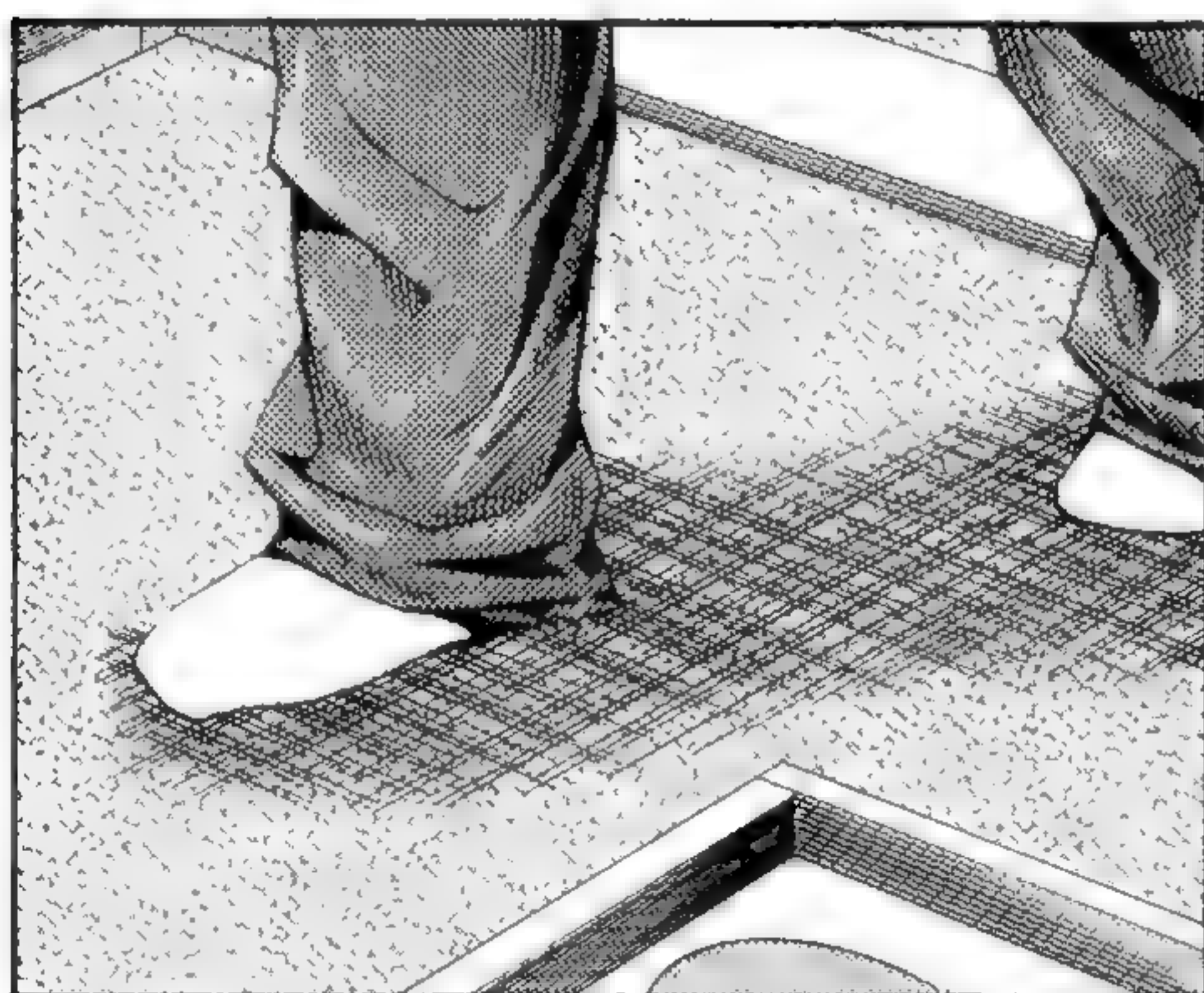
I WANT  
TO...







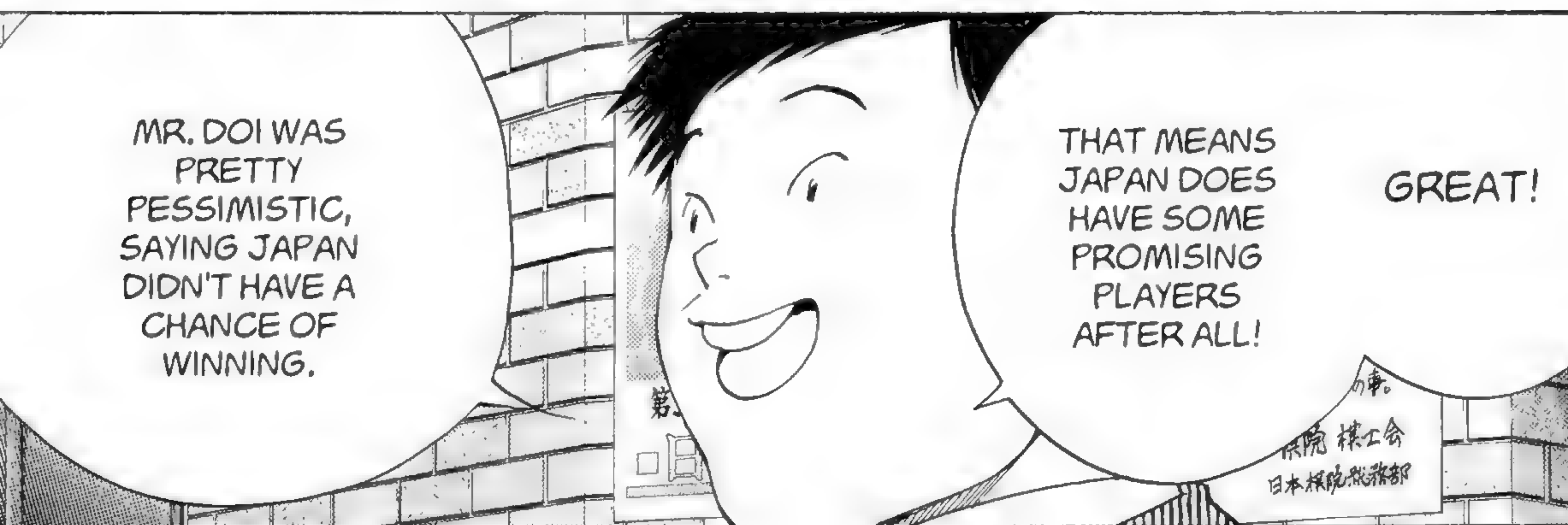














# A WORD ABOUT HIKARU NO GO

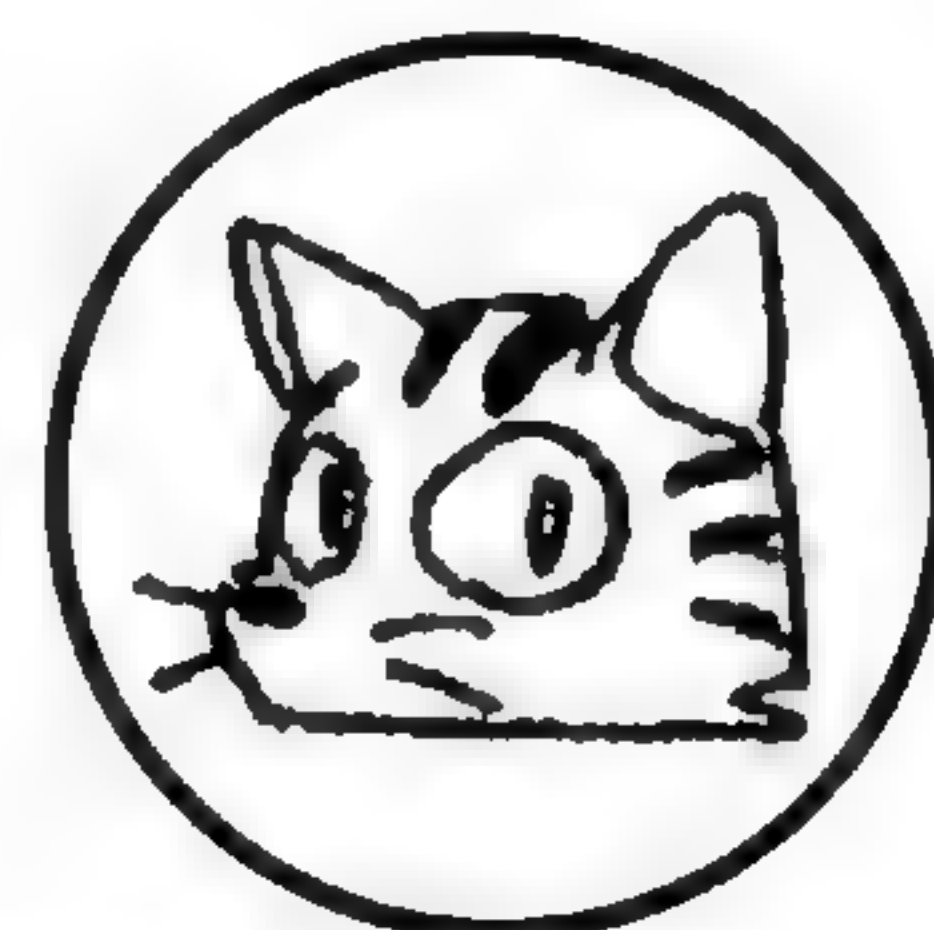
## THE STONES IN THE IGO STARTER BOX



THE IGO STARTER BOX (2,980 YEN PLUS TAX) IS A SET CONSISTING OF A GO TEXTBOOK, A NINE-BY-NINE BOARD AND A SET OF STONES. THE CHARACTER STONES ABOVE ARE PART OF THAT SET.

DAI NIPPON PRINTING COMPANY PROUDLY BOASTS THAT THEY CAN PRINT ON ANYTHING EXCEPT AIR, BUT APPARENTLY EVEN THEY HAD A HARD TIME PRINTING ON THESE GO STONES.

SUCH SUPER-CUTE GO STONES TOO! ♡  
THOUGH WHEN YOU USE THEM IT'S KIND OF HARD TO SEE HOW THE GAME IS GOING.



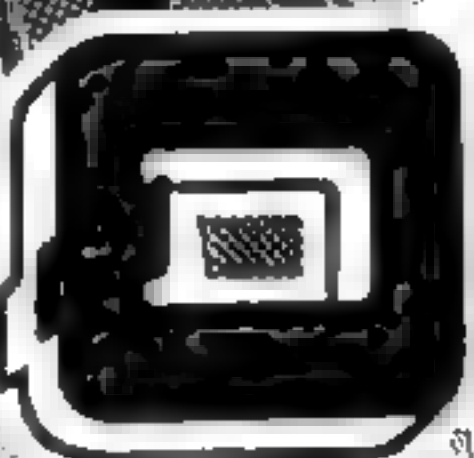


# Game 151

## “Me Too!”

B

A



TRYING TO SET THE CAMERA'S SELF-TIMER?  
WHAT LINES WOULD YOU PUT IN A AND B?







THE JAPAN-  
CHINA-KOREA  
JUNIOR TEAM  
TOURNAMENT?!

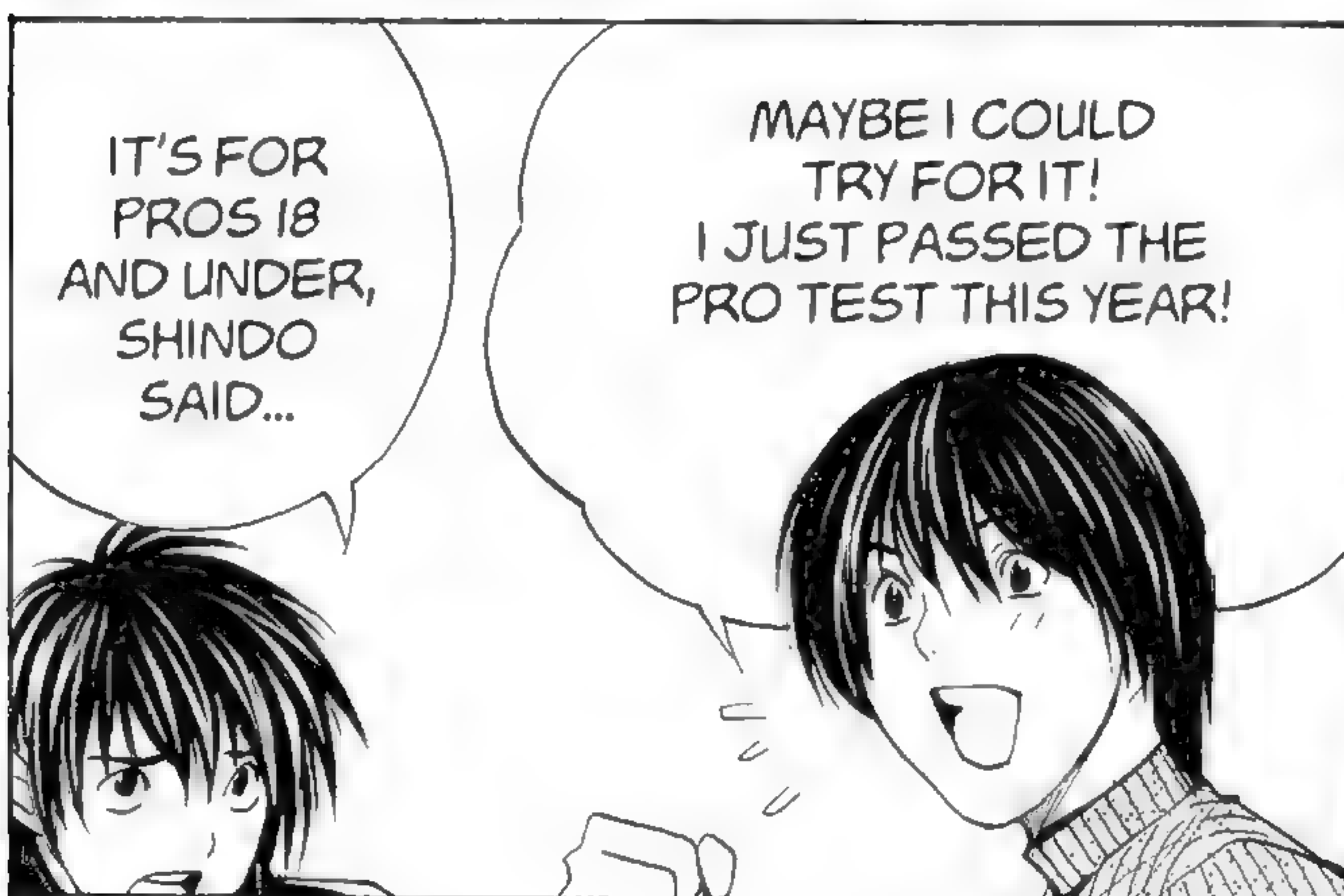


A  
TOURNAMENT  
BETWEEN  
JAPAN, CHINA  
AND KOREA?!

SOMEONE  
FROM THE  
PUBLISHING  
DEPART-  
MENT TOLD  
ME ABOUT  
IT.

...UNDER  
18, WITH  
THREE  
ON A  
TEAM.

YEAH!  
SOUNDS  
PRETTY  
INTERESTING,  
HUH?  
IT'S FOR  
PROS...



IT'S FOR  
PROS 18  
AND UNDER,  
SHINDO  
SAID...

MAYBE I COULD  
TRY FOR IT!  
I JUST PASSED THE  
PRO TEST THIS YEAR!



I HEARD  
ABOUT IT TOO.  
IN APRIL  
THERE'LL BE  
QUALIFYING  
MATCHES TO  
DETERMINE  
THE TEAM  
PLAYERS.









AKIRA  
TOYA  
AND ME!



THOUGH I  
SUPPOSE  
JAPAN HAS  
AKIRA TOYA.

IT'S THE  
SAME IN  
CHINA.

THE KOREAN  
TEENS ARE  
AMAZING.  
KO YONG HA'S  
JUST 16 AND  
ALREADY A  
TOP PLAYER.



JUST LIKE  
SUYONG AND  
TOYA!

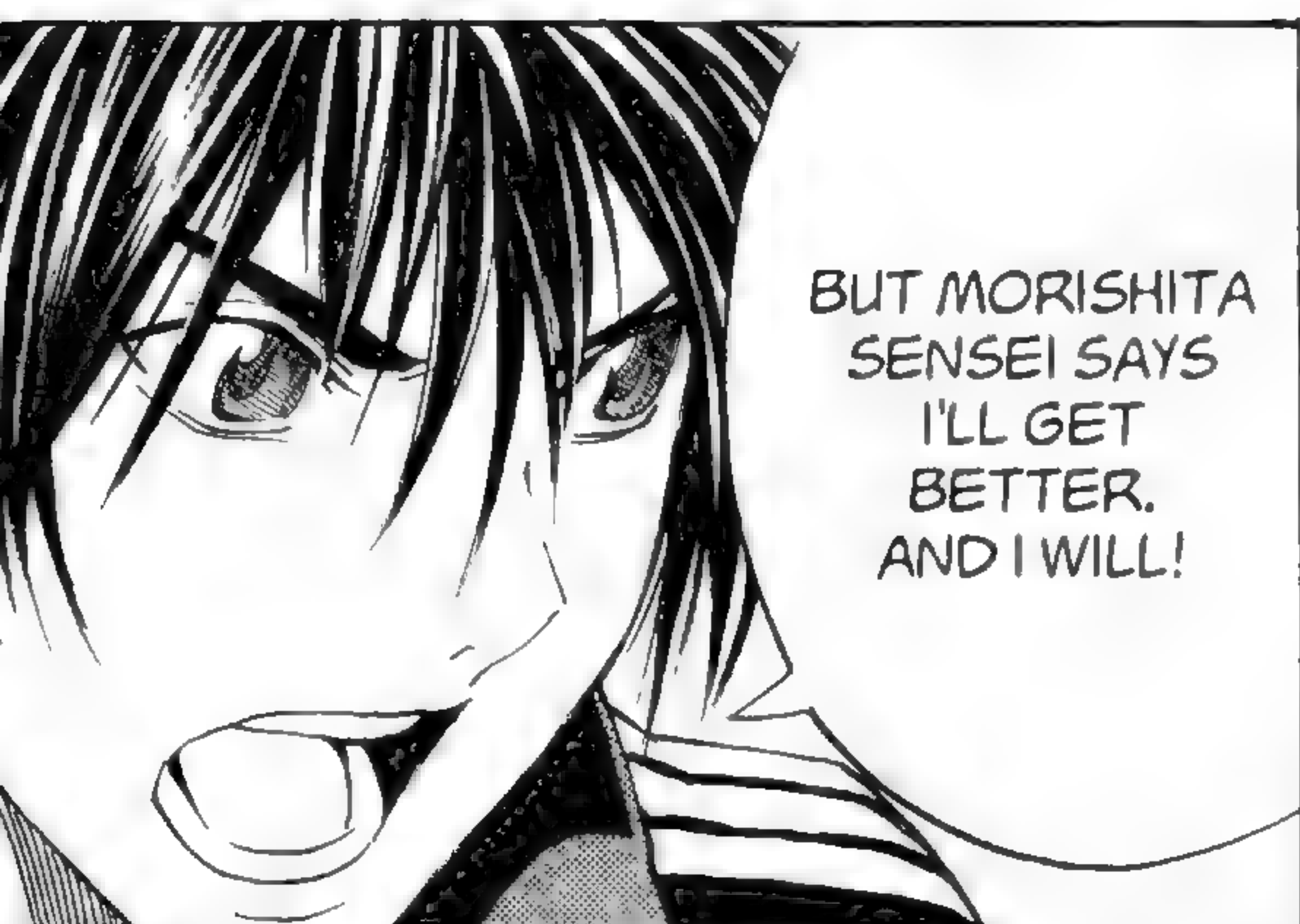
IF I WIN,  
I'LL MOVE TO  
THE SECOND  
PRELIMS AND  
FINALLY GET TO  
COMPETE WITH  
HIGH-RANKED  
PLAYERS!

MY NEXT  
MATCH IS IN  
THE FINALS  
OF THE  
HON'INBO  
FIRST PRE-  
LIMINARIES!



I'M NOT GONNA  
TRAIL TOYA  
FOREVER, YOU  
CAN BET ON  
THAT!

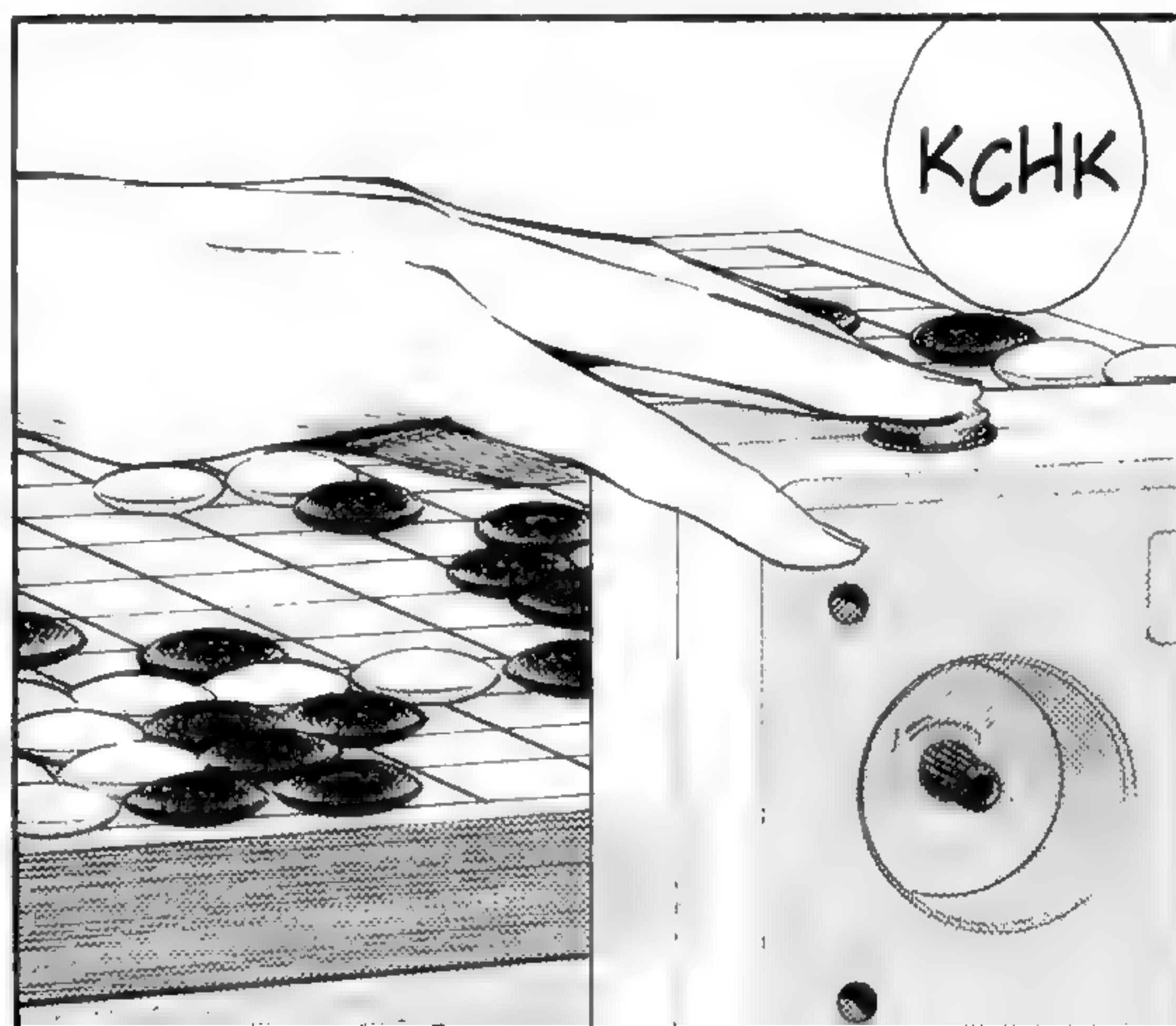




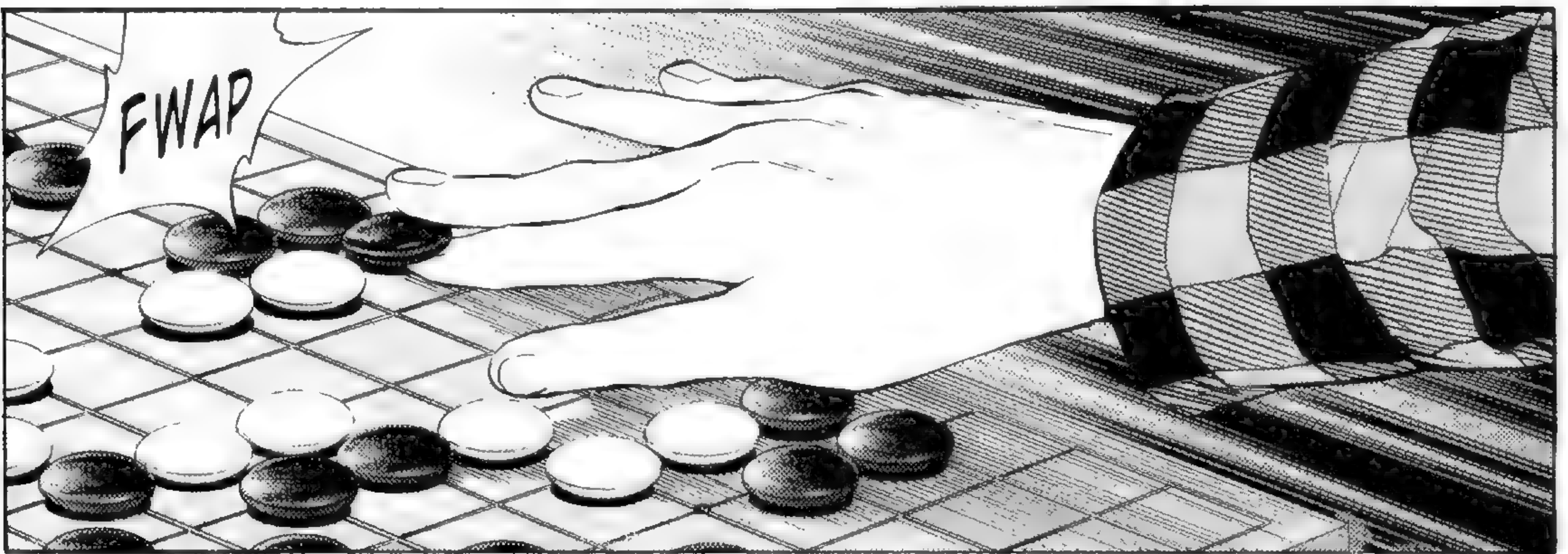
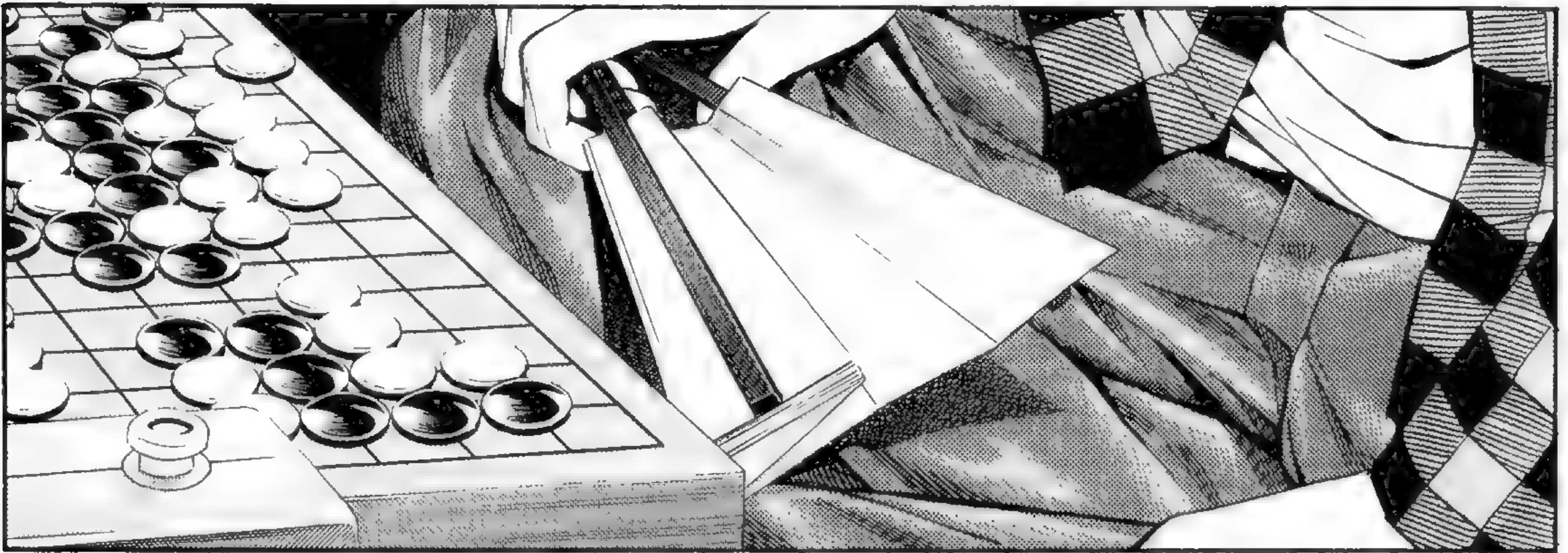




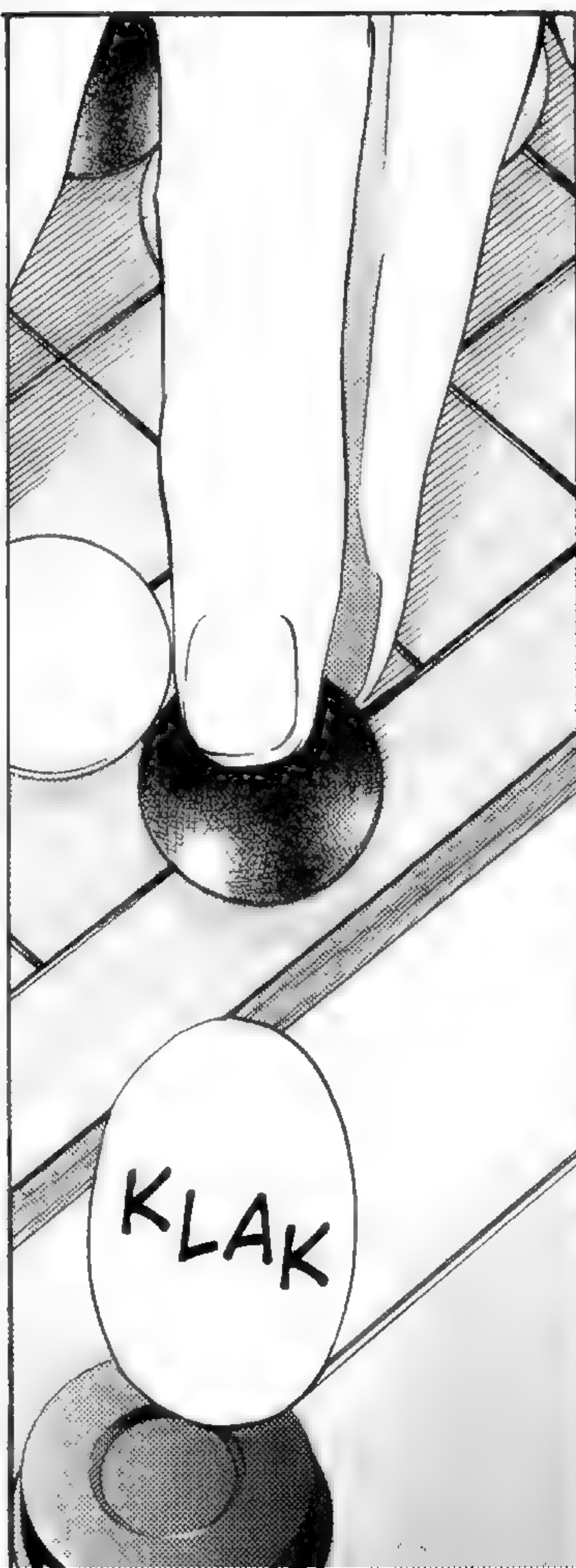




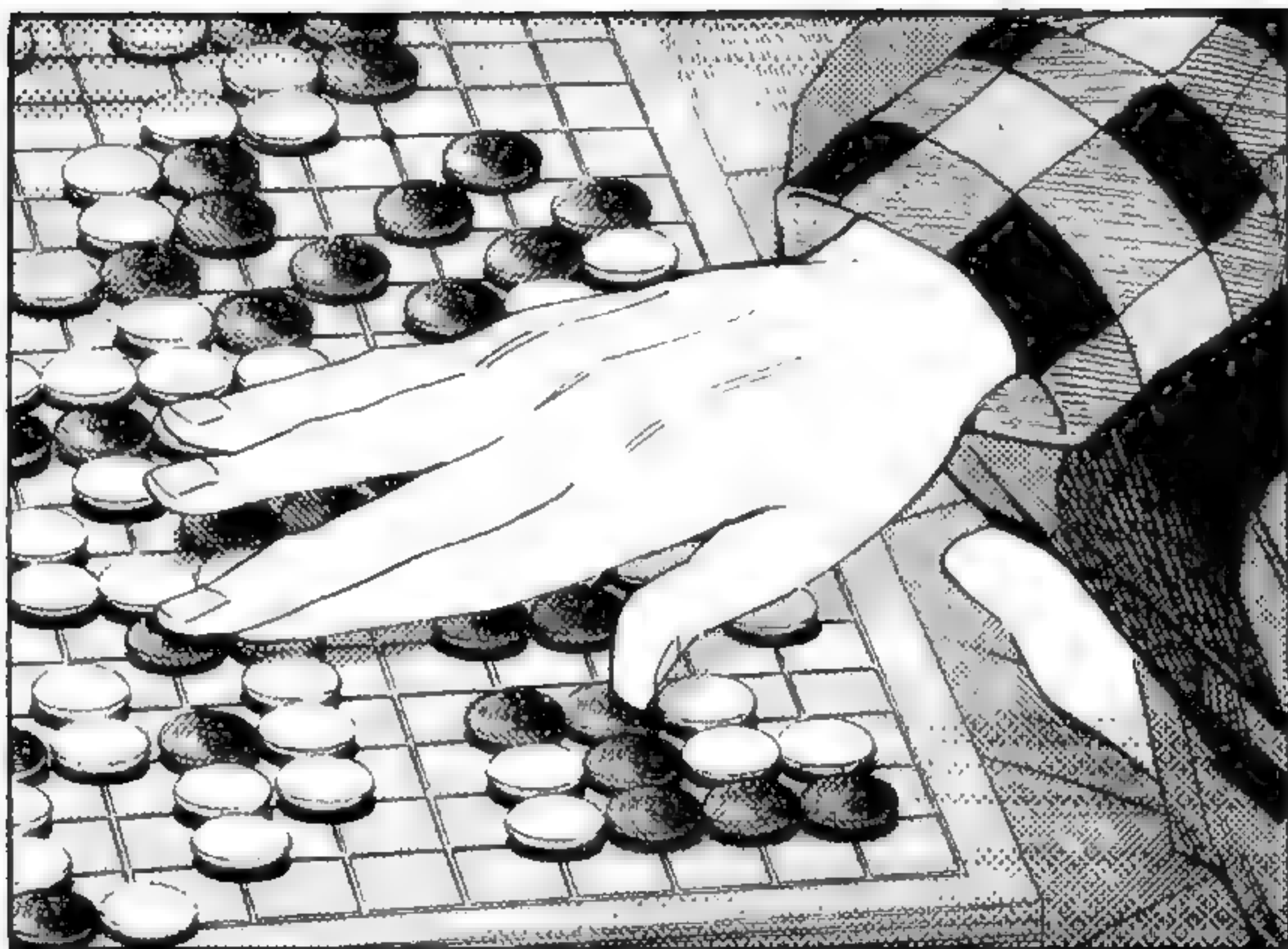




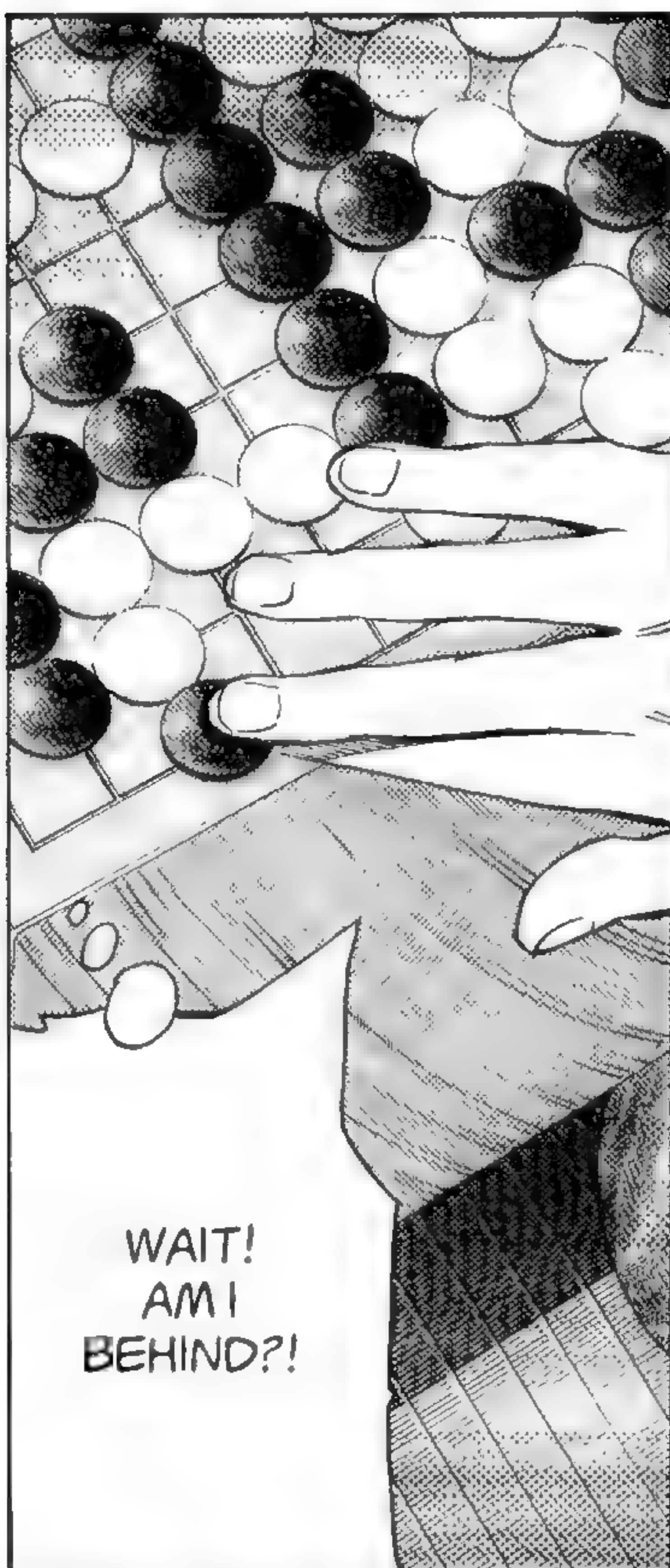








WHAT?  
OH NO...



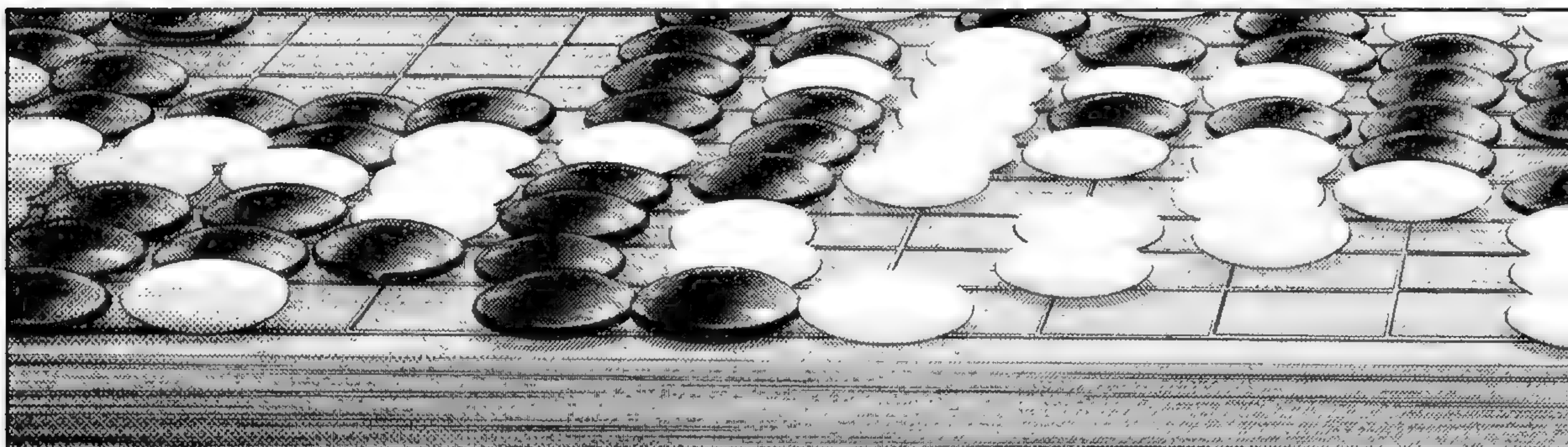
WAIT!  
AM I  
BEHIND?!



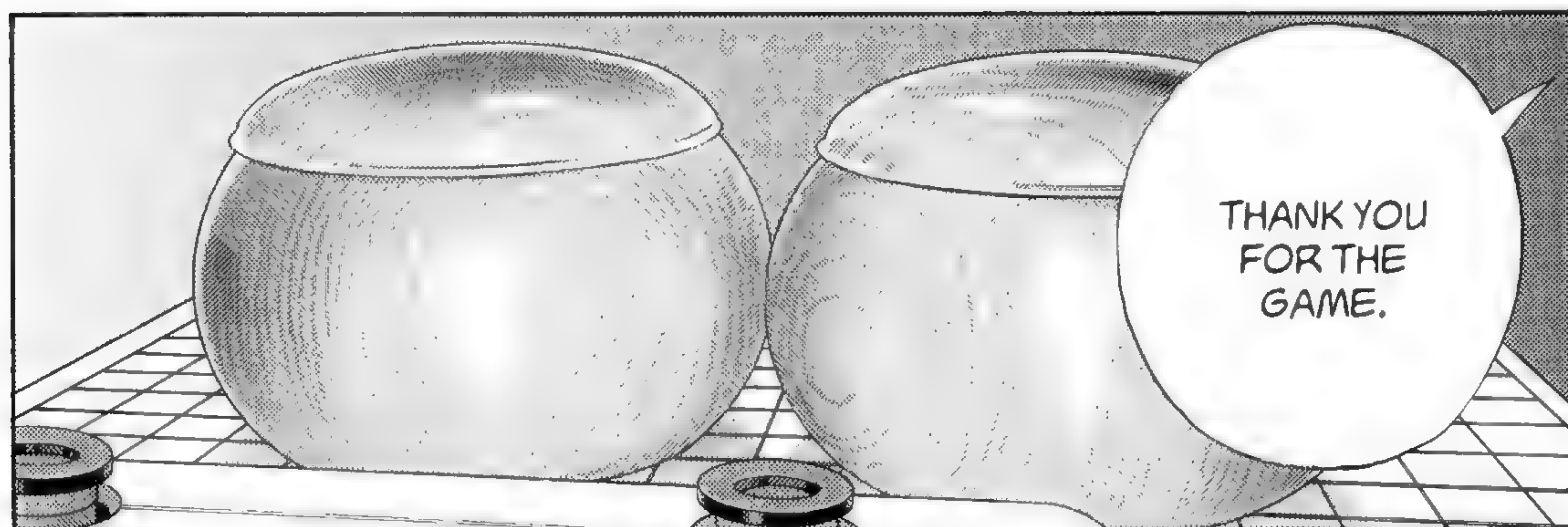
WHAT  
INCREDIBLE  
ACCURACY!



THERE'S  
PRACTI-  
CALLY NO  
ERROR IN  
HIS END-  
GAME.











WHAT A  
COMPLETE  
AND UTTER  
MESS!  
YOU LOST,  
OBVIOUSLY.

THIS WAS  
THE GAME  
YOU PLAYED  
THIS WEEK?



I WON BY  
ONE AND  
A HALF  
POINTS!

HAH!  
I CAME FROM  
BEHIND AND  
BEAT HIM!



**HMPH!**

IF HE HADN'T,  
HE'D HAVE SHUT  
YOU DOWN WELL  
BEFORE THE  
ENDGAME.  
YOUR OWN PLAYING  
WAS ATROCIOUS.

YOU ONLY  
WON  
BECAUSE  
YOUR  
OPPONENT  
MISREAD HIS  
POSITION.









NOBODY  
COULD FIGHT  
IT OUT FROM  
THIS  
POSITION!



OH YEAH?  
I COULD!  
THE  
DIAGONAL'S  
ENOUGH!



I COULD PLAY  
A DIAGONAL  
HERE AND  
THREATEN  
WHITE'S  
TERRITORY...

IF YOU  
DON'T GET  
ANYTHING IN THE  
CENTER, YOU'D  
FALL EVEN  
FURTHER BEHIND  
IN TERRITORY  
AND... NO  
COMEBACK.



YOU WON'T BE  
ABLE TO ACT  
SO SUPERIOR  
FOR MUCH  
LONGER.  
SOMEDAY I'LL  
BEAT YOU IN  
AN OFFICIAL  
MATCH.

KSHH

KSHH



YEP!

PSST  
PSST

EVERY DAY  
THEIR  
FIGHTING  
GETS  
FIERCER...



GOT  
THAT  
RIGHT!

YOU  
REFUSE  
TO GIVE  
IN.









HARDLY!  
IT'S CALLED  
BEING  
SEEDED,  
SHINDO.



NO  
FAIR!

WHAT?!  
YOU GET  
TO SKIP  
THE QUALI-  
FIERS?!




AKIRA'S  
IN THE  
HON'INBO  
LEAGUE,  
AFTER  
ALL.



INDEED.

YEP,  
THAT'S  
HOW IT  
GOES.





REMEMBER  
WHERE ALL  
THOSE  
FORFEITS  
GOT YOU?  
DEAL WITH  
IT!

THAT'S RIGHT.  
HE'S GOT  
BETTER  
THINGS TO DO  
THAN PLAY  
QUALIFIERS.



OKAY, I GET  
THE POINT.  
RANK HAS ITS  
PRIVILEGES,  
BUT, Y'KNOW,  
PRIVILEGES...

...



EH?



**KSHK**



**SKOOT**

...AREN'T  
THE SAME AS  
ABILITY.





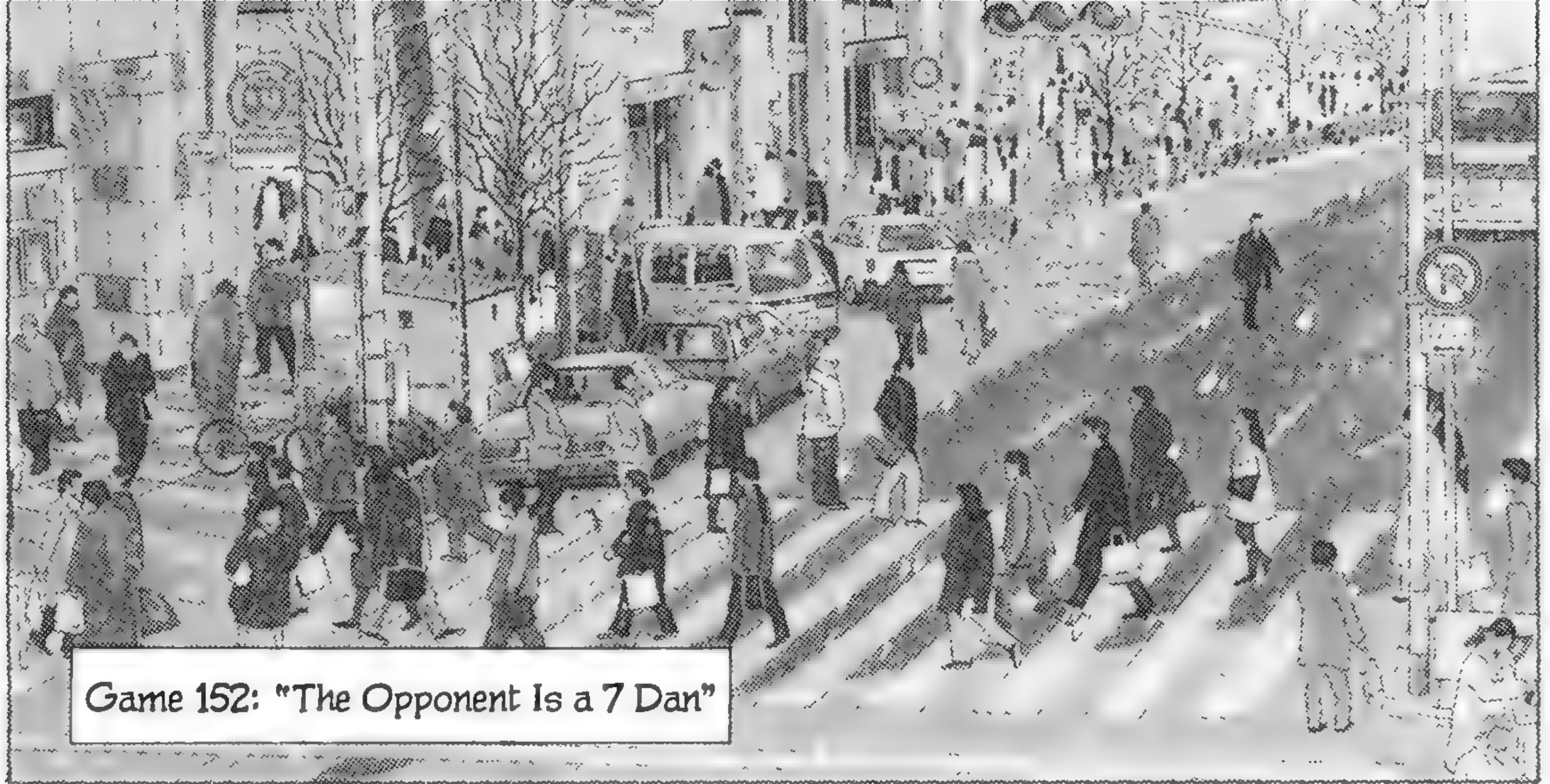














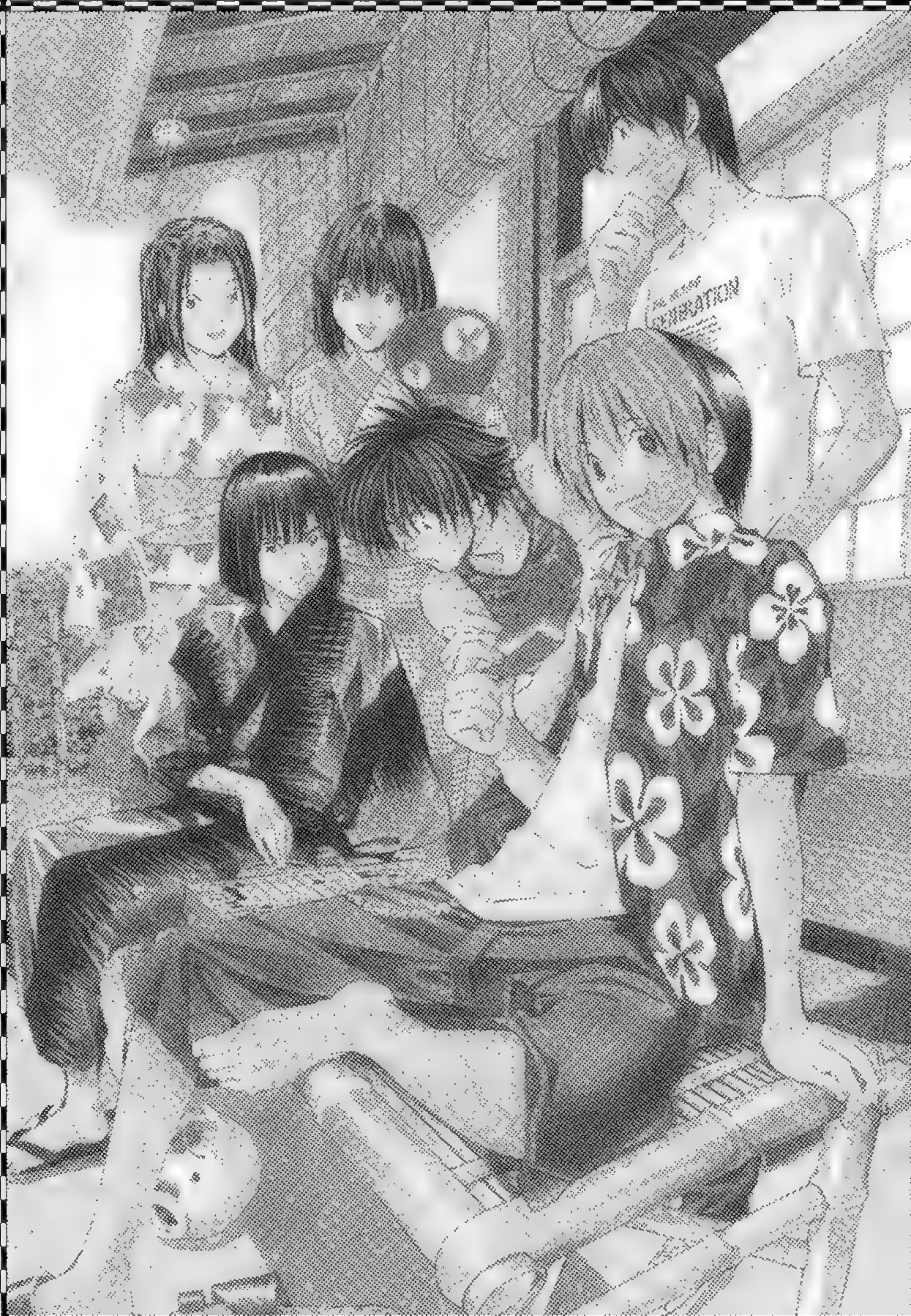






Game 152 "The Opponent Is a 7 Dan"

























**THE JAPAN-CHINA-KOREA  
JUNIOR TEAM TOURNAMENT**

**THE  
HOKUTO  
CUP**

**The Japan-China-Korea  
Junior Team Tournament    The Hokuto Cup**

5/4-5/5      Location: Seven Star Hotel  
Sponsored by: Hokuto Communication Systems  
With the support of: Japan Go Association  
Kansai Go Association  
Korean Go Association  
Chinese Go Association



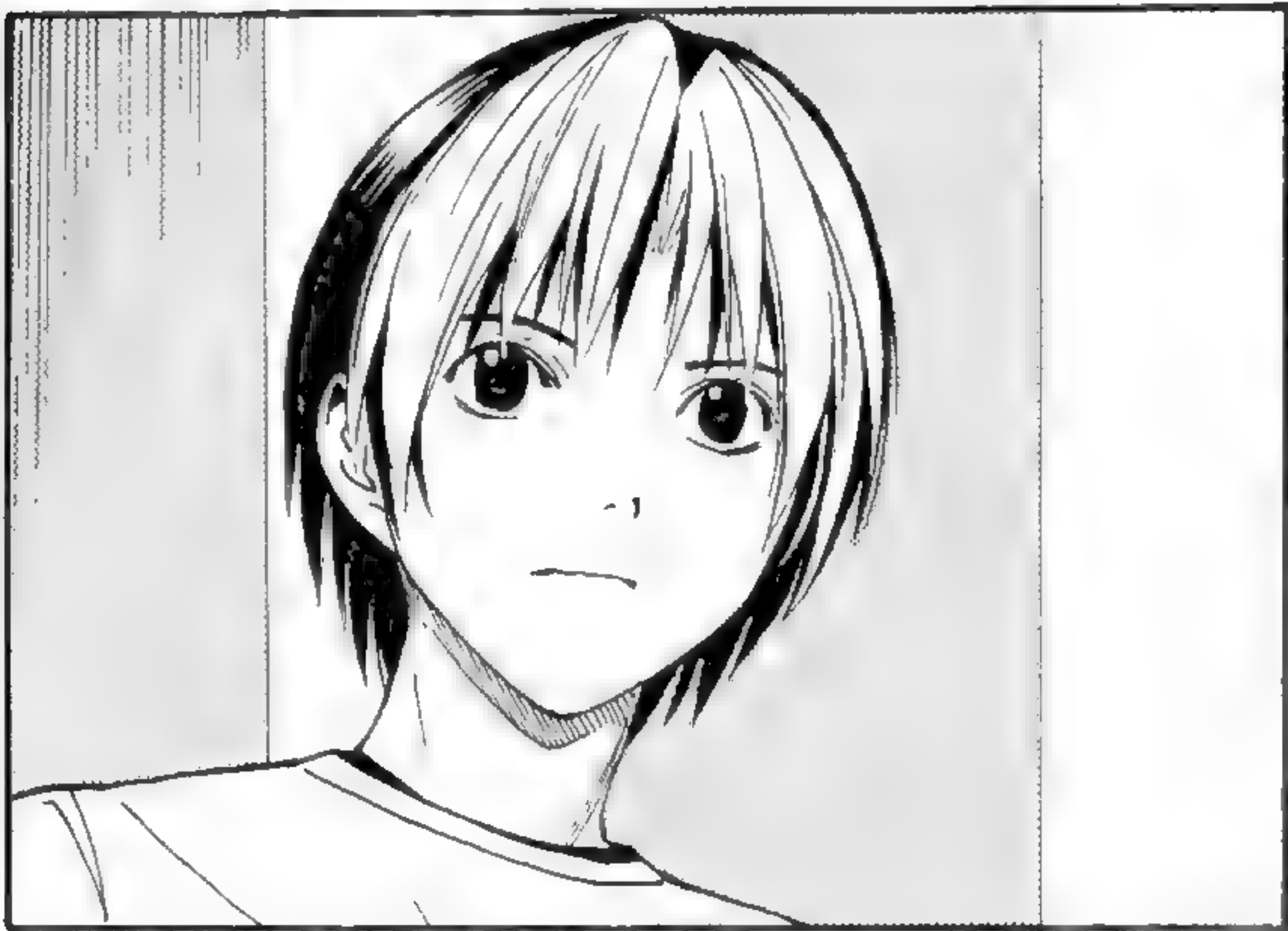




























RANKS ARE FOR  
LIFE, NO MATTER  
HOW WEAK YOU GET  
OR HOW OFTEN YOU  
LOSE ONCE YOU  
REACH THEM.

YOUR RANK  
DOESN'T  
MEAN YOU'RE  
ANY GOOD!



BUT IT DOES  
MEAN YOU  
OWE ME  
RESPECT,  
KID.



RESPECT?!  
FOR YOU?!  
YOU'VE  
GOTTA BE  
KIDDING!



YOU WERE  
SHARP TO  
SPOT THE  
SHUSAKU  
FORGERY.

HAW!

本因坊秀策

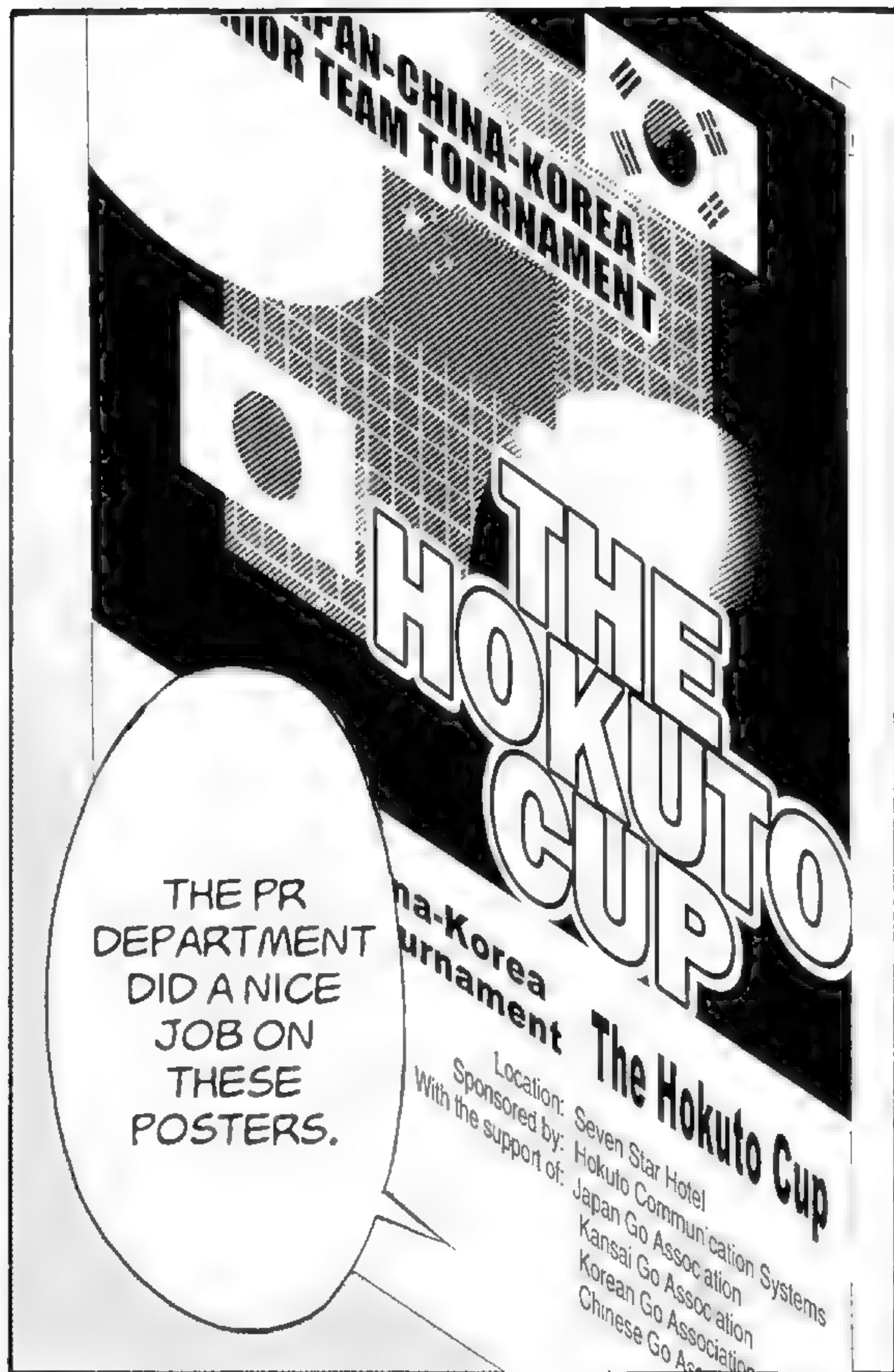
次子己免夏書



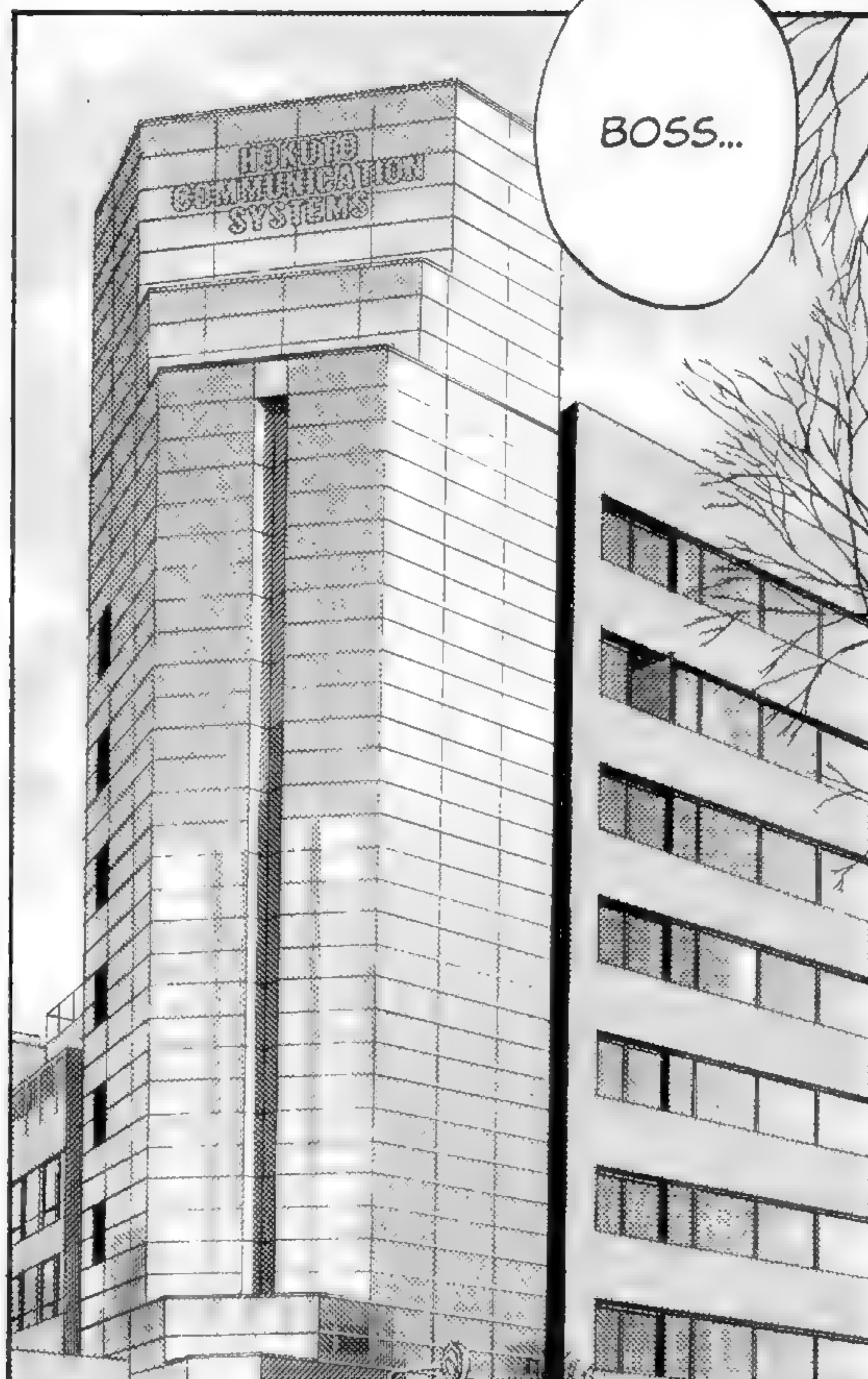








THE PR  
DEPARTMENT  
DID A NICE  
JOB ON  
THESE  
POSTERS.



BOSS...



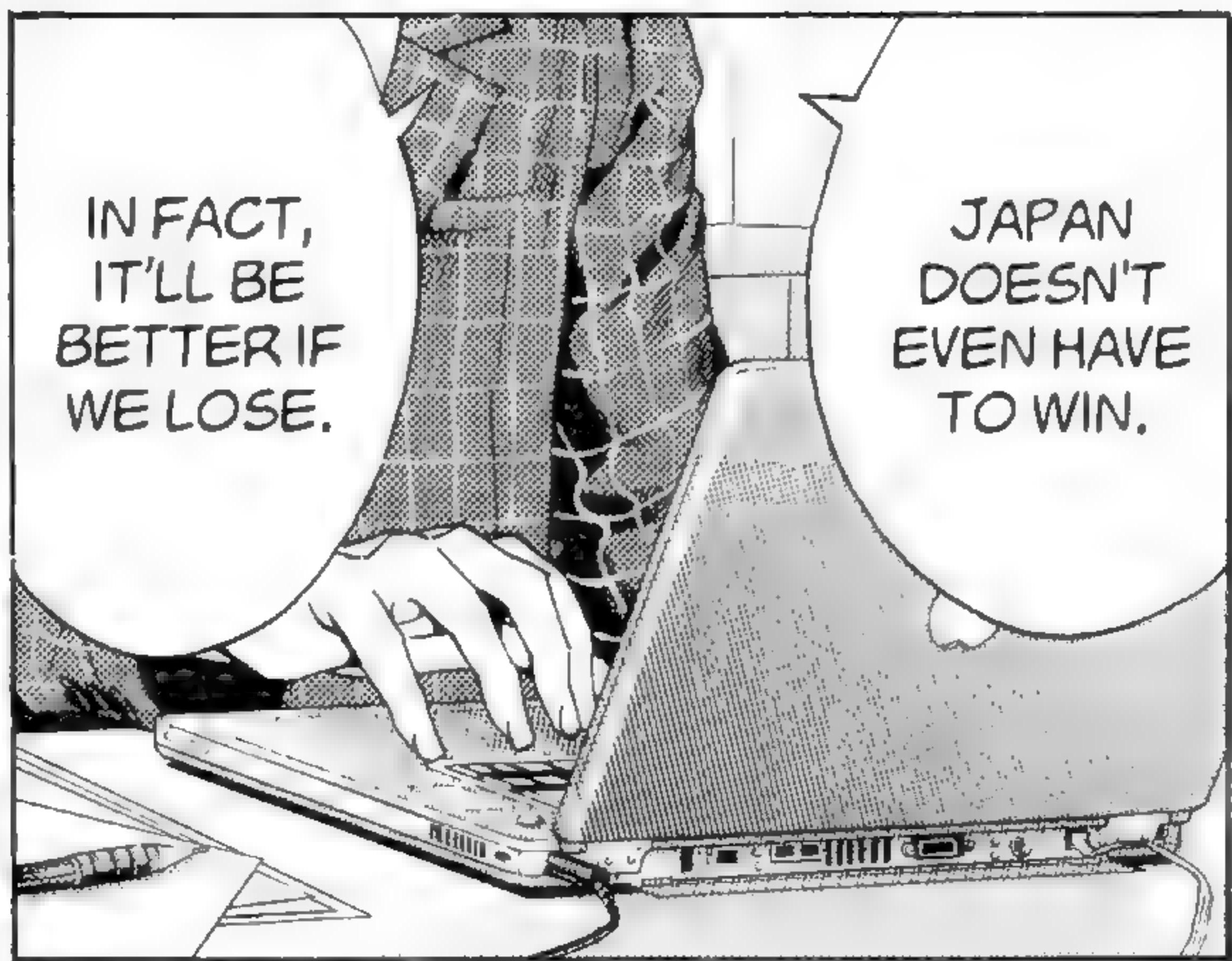
...WHEN  
IT'S ONE-  
ON-ONE.

TRUE,  
IT DOESN'T  
EXACTLY BOIL  
OVER WITH  
ACTION,  
ESPECIALLY...

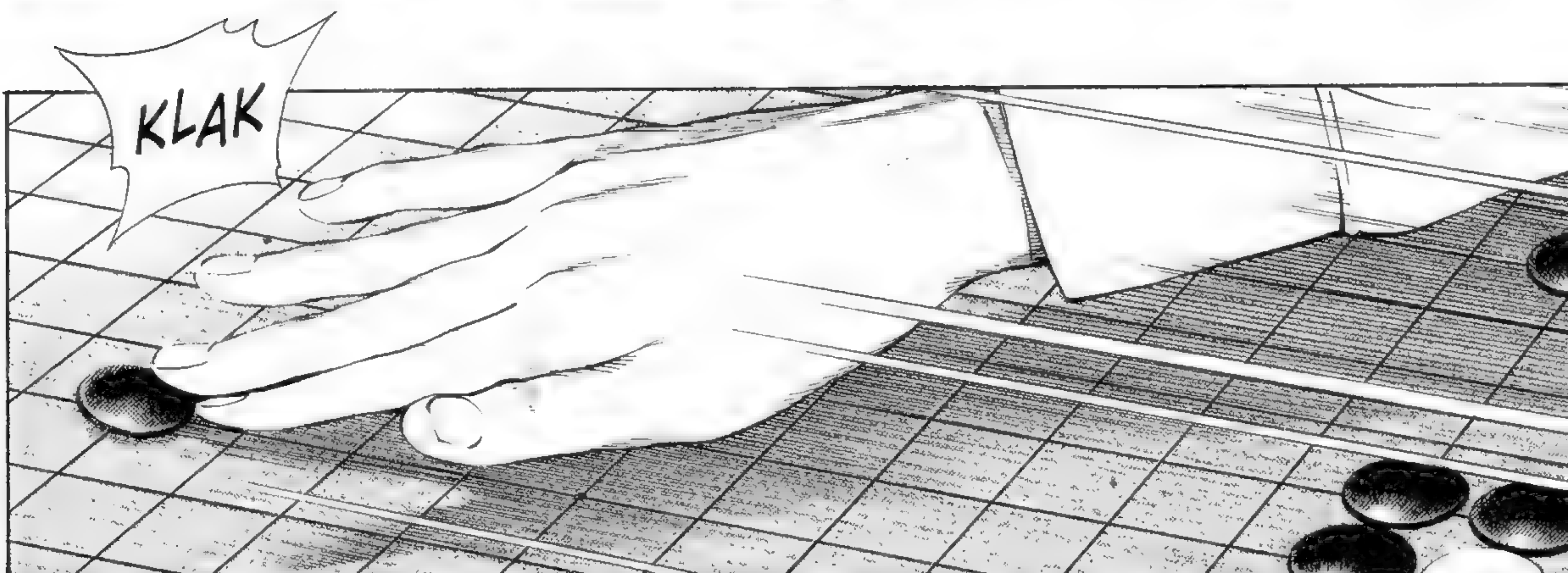
GO, THOUGH...  
IT'S NOT  
REALLY VERY  
EXCITING.

ALL TO  
CELEBRATE  
OUR COMPANY  
LISTING ON  
THE STOCK  
EXCHANGE,  
RIGHT?

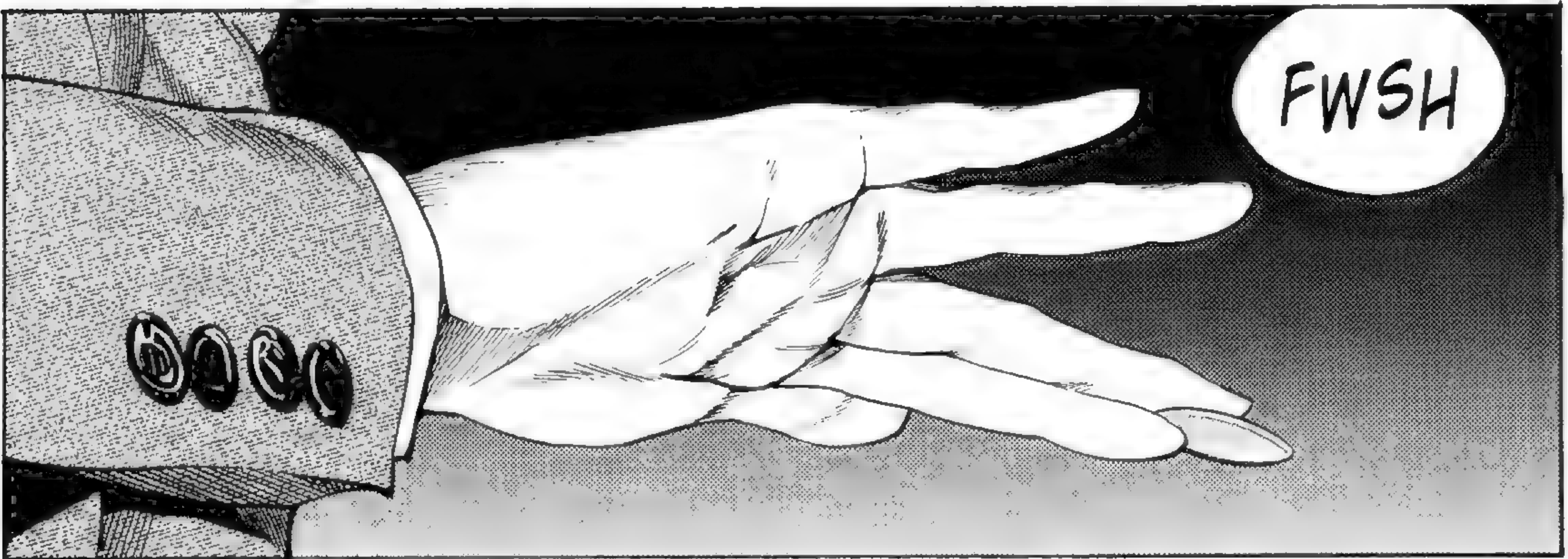












I MAY NOT BE  
THE PLAYER  
I WAS, BUT MY  
TECHNIQUE'S  
STILL  
SOUND.







I HAVE TO  
EXPAND BLACK'S  
INFLUENCE...  
AND WHEN HE  
INVADES...

I NEED TO BE  
CAREFUL ABOUT  
THE POSITION IN  
THE CENTER  
AS I PLAY.



...YOU  
PLAYED  
BACK  
THEN.

...AND  
I'M NOT  
THE SAME  
OPPONENT...



IT'S BEEN  
A YEAR...

NEED I  
REMINDE YOU  
NOT TO  
UNDER-  
ESTIMATE  
ME?



I'M NOT  
THE SAME  
OPPONENT YOU  
PLAYED BACK  
THEN EITHER.





WELL, TOO  
BAD FOR  
YOU!



YOU'RE  
ON.

FINE!  
WE'LL  
SETTLE THIS  
ON THE  
BOARD.



THAT INSULT  
BURNS ME UP  
NOW AS MUCH  
AS IT DID THEN!  
MORE, EVEN!

YOU INSULTED  
SHUSAKU WITH  
THAT FORGED  
SIGNATURE!







# HIKARU NO GO STORYBOARDS

44  
YUMI HOTTA (のいのち)





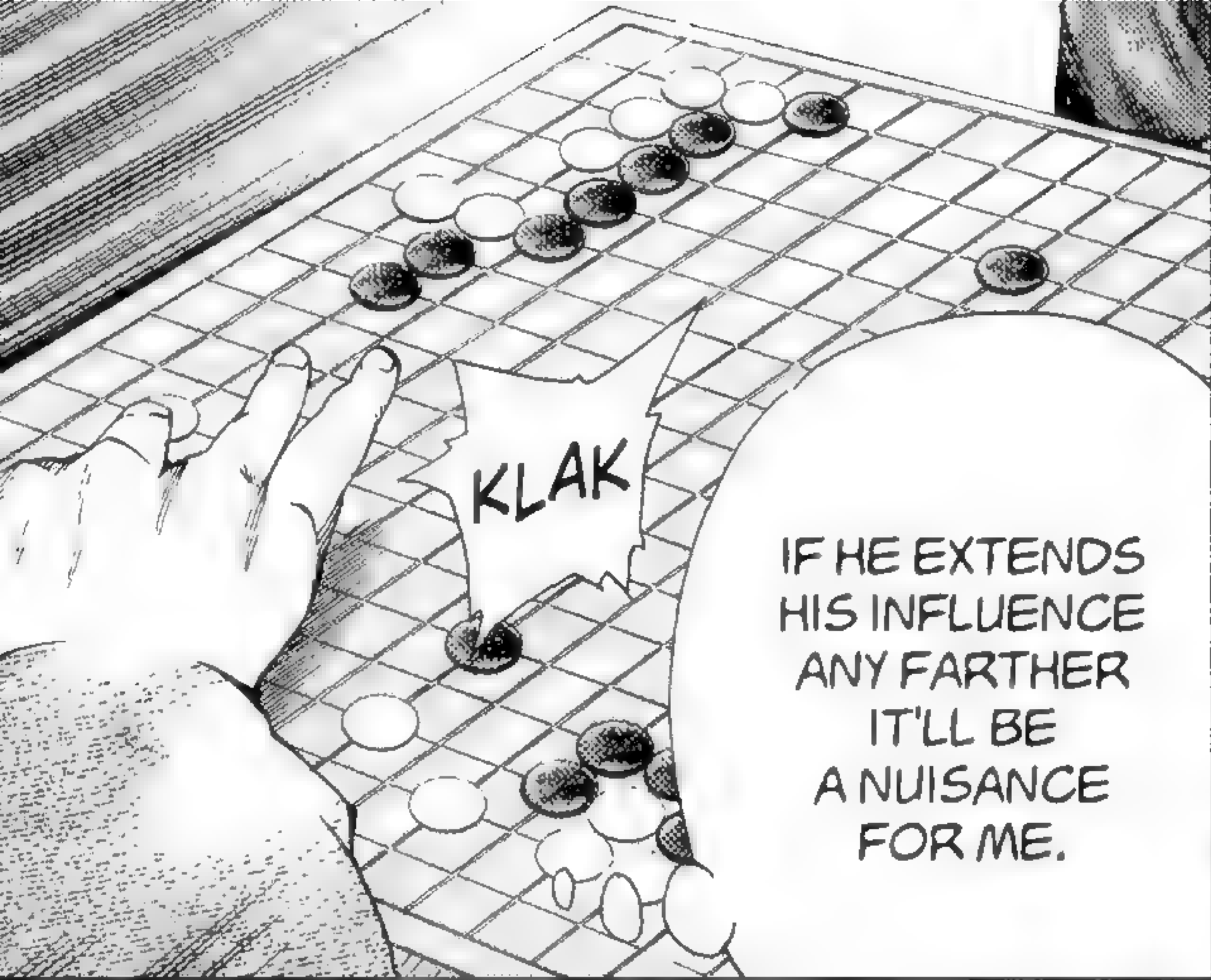
Game  
153  
"One  
Step  
Forward!"









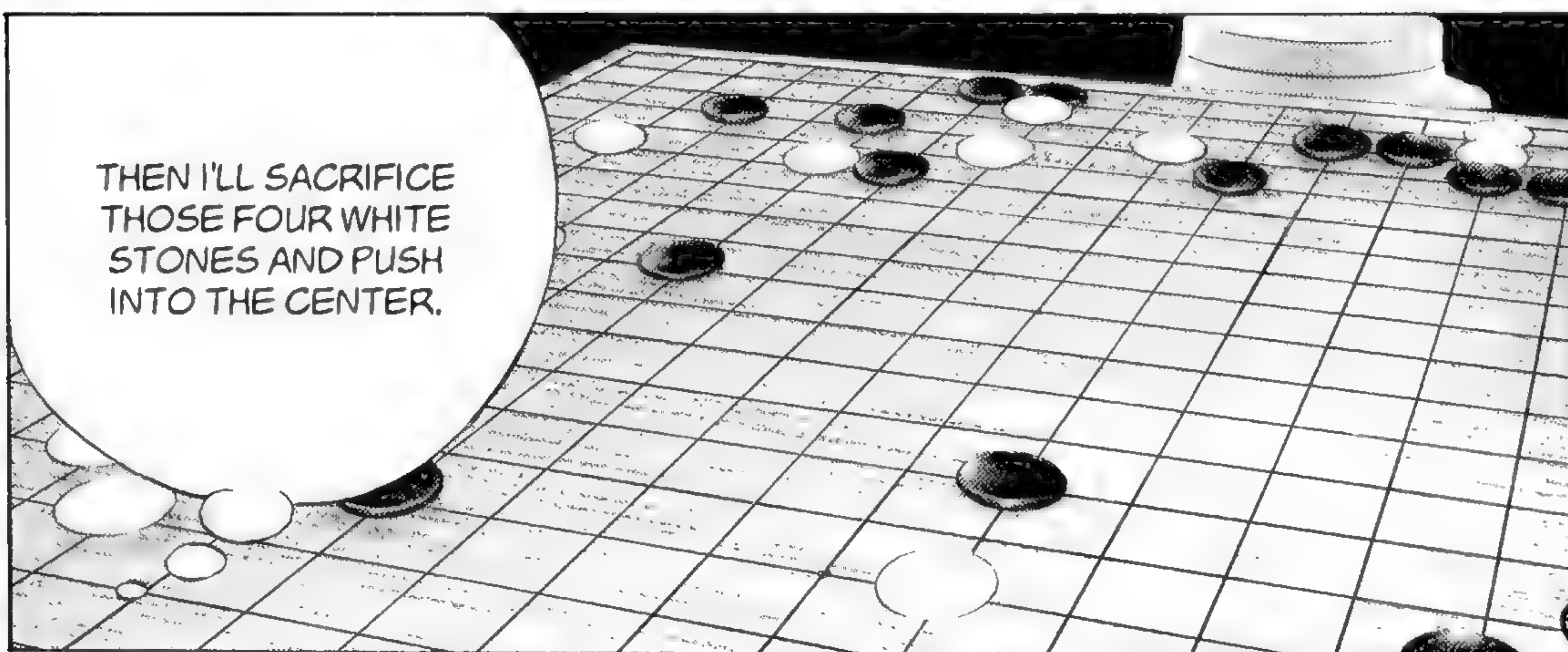


IF HE EXTENDS  
HIS INFLUENCE  
ANY FARTHER  
IT'LL BE  
A NUISANCE  
FOR ME.



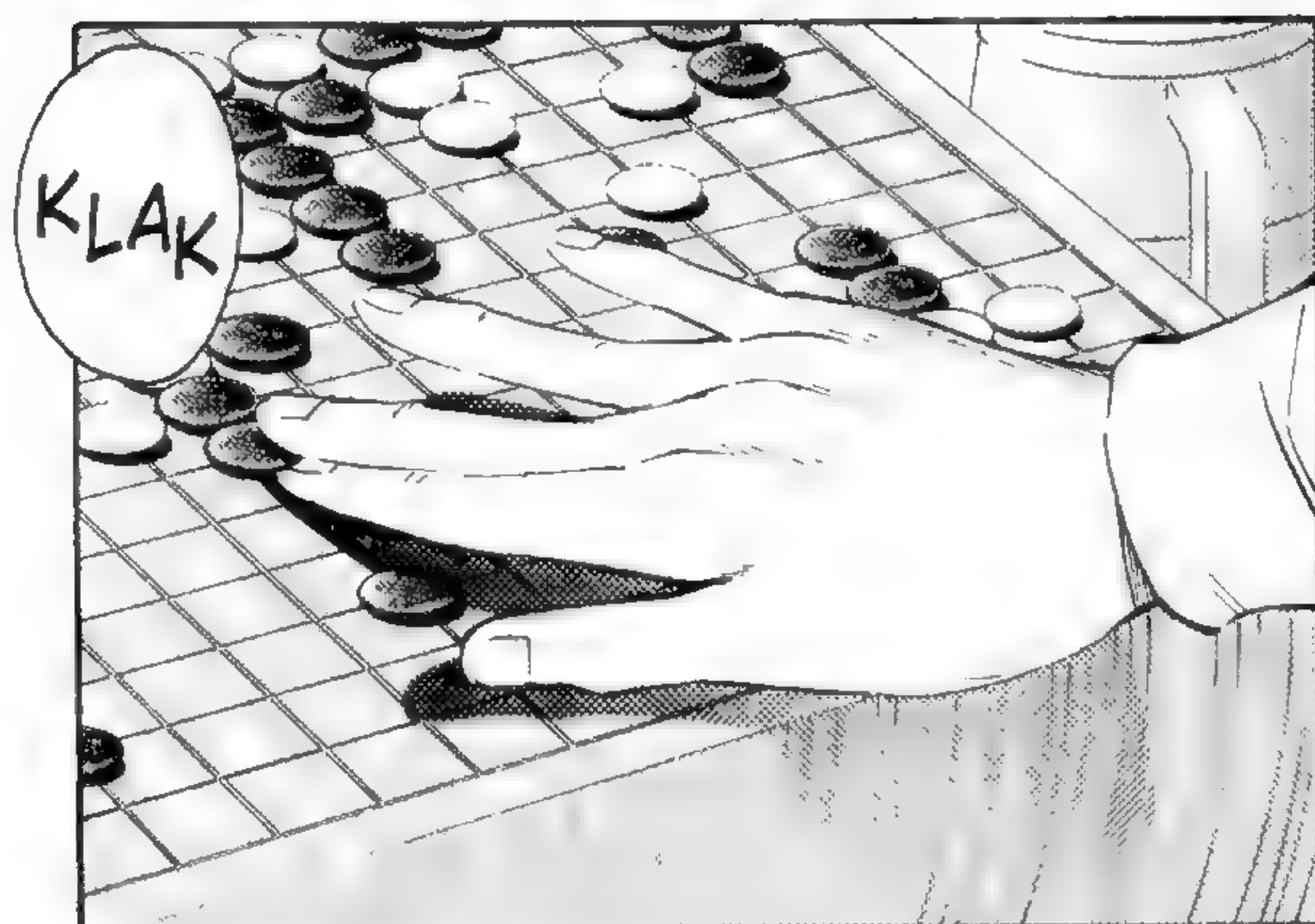
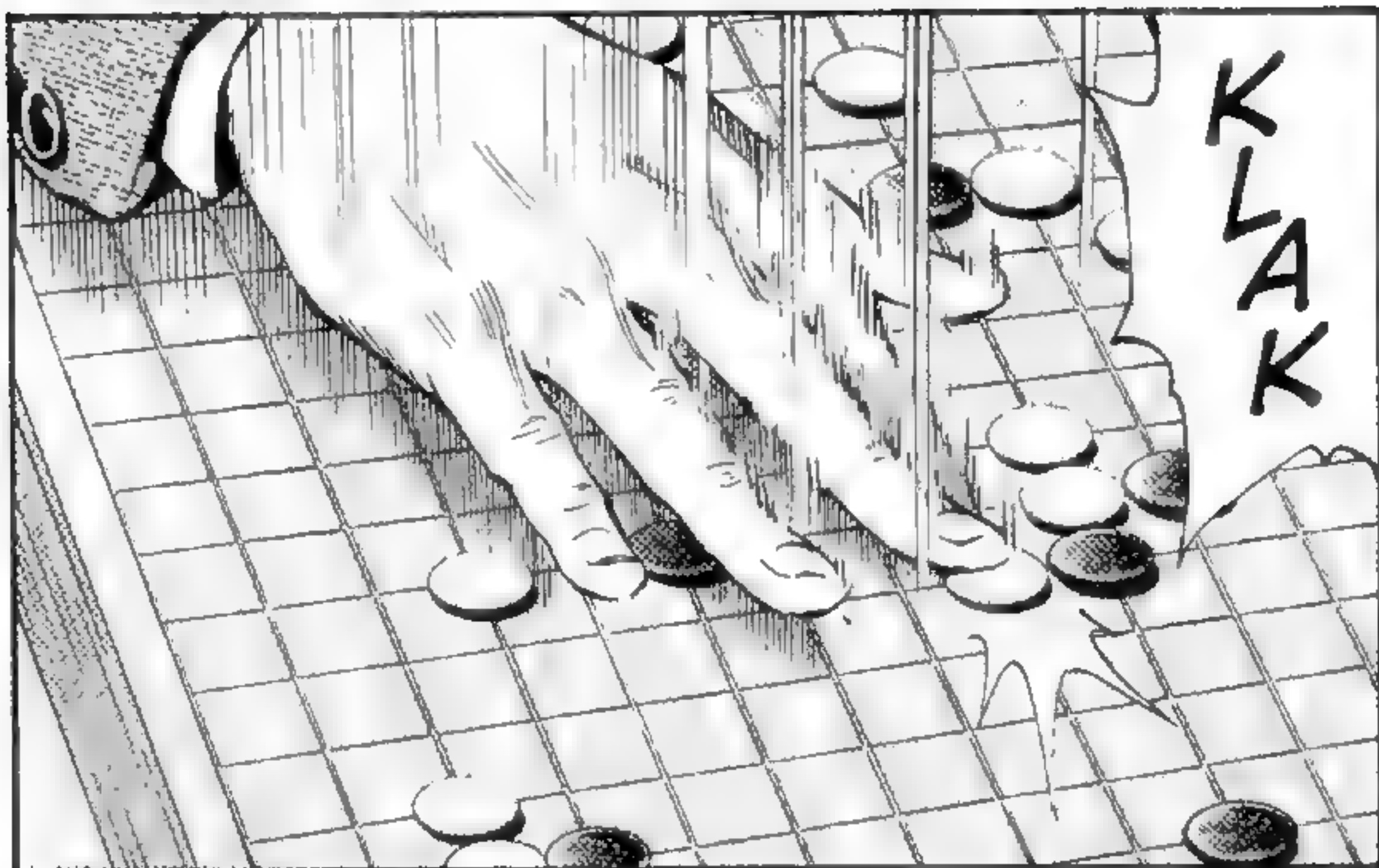
HE WAS ONLY  
FEISTY UNTIL  
THE GAME  
STARTED.



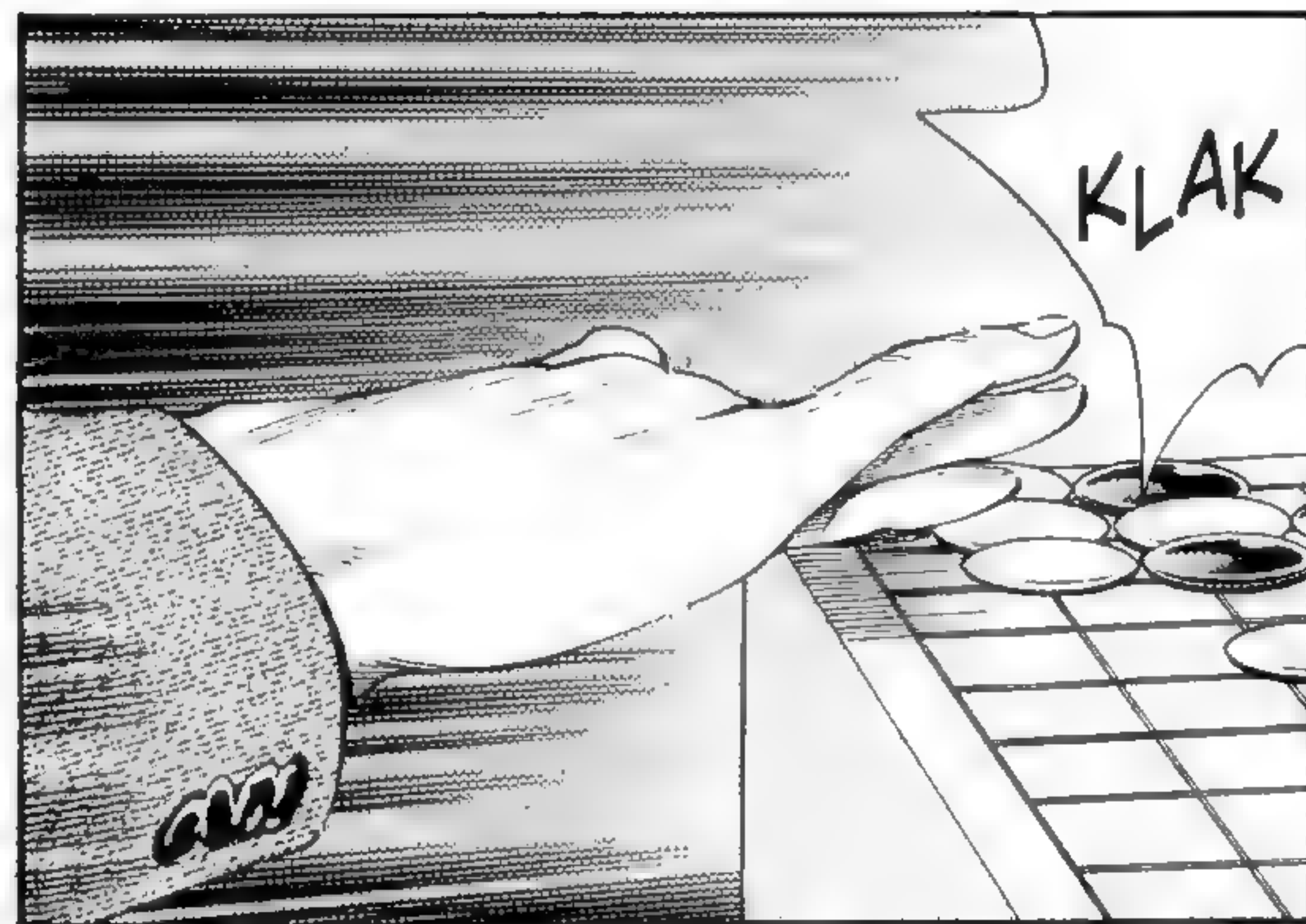




READ  
THIS  
WAY









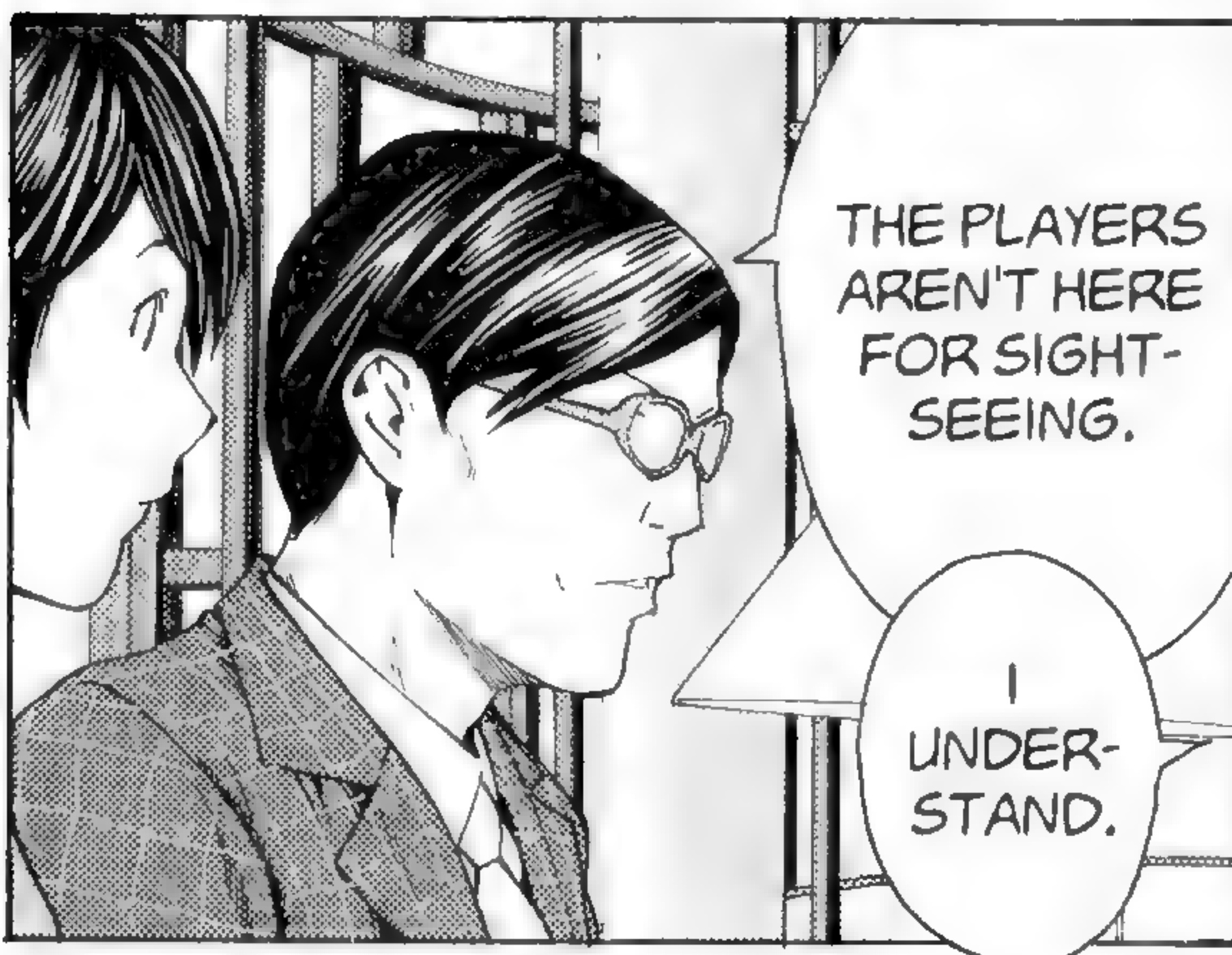






EACH TEAM  
PARTICIPATING  
IN THE HOKUTO  
CUP WILL HAVE  
THEIR OWN  
WAITING ROOM...  
YES, HERE.  
WE'LL PROVIDE  
BEVERAGES.

THE GAME  
ANALYSIS  
ON THE BIG  
BOARD WILL  
BE IN THIS  
200-SEAT  
HALL...



THE PLAYERS  
AREN'T HERE  
FOR SIGHT-  
SEEING.

I  
UNDER-  
STAND.



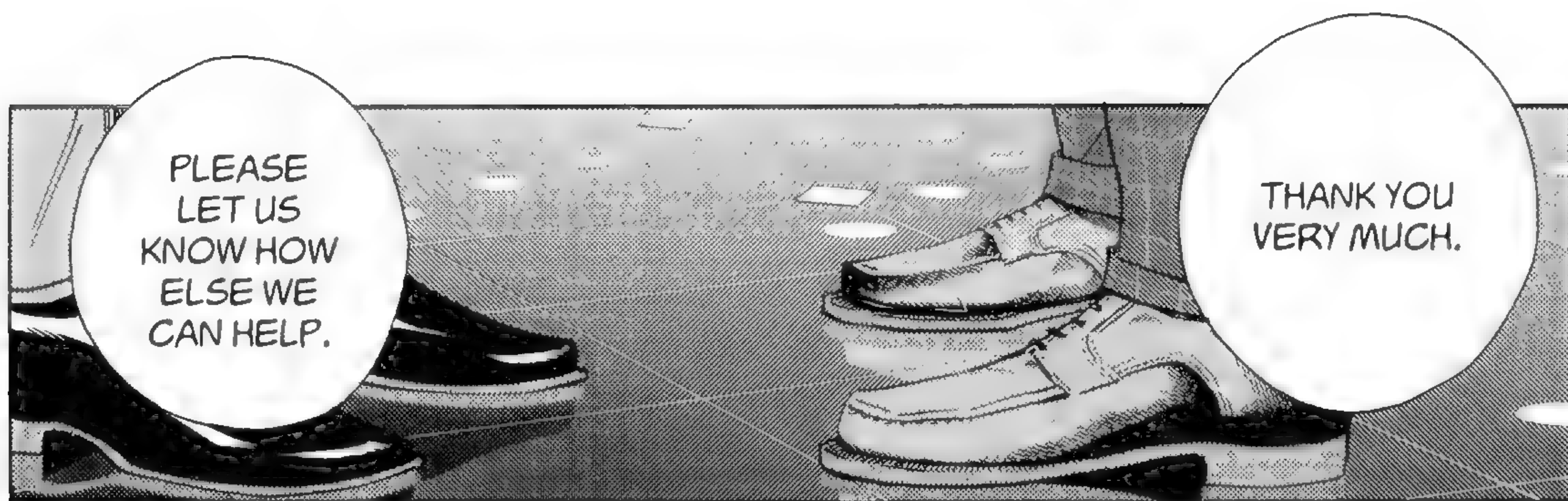
NOW,  
ABOUT THE  
RECEPTION  
THE DAY  
BEFORE THE  
TOURNA-  
MENT...



PLEASE GIVE  
THEM QUIET  
ROOMS,  
NOTHING BY  
AN ELEVATOR  
OR THE LIKE.

THE HOTEL  
ROOMS FOR  
THE CHINESE  
AND KOREAN  
PLAYERS AND  
THEIR  
ENTOURAGES  
WILL BE...









YOU  
ACTUALLY  
KNOW THE  
NAME OF  
ONE OF THE  
PLAYERS?

HMM...

GUESS IT'S  
UP TO ME  
TO GIVE A  
HOOT!  
GO AKIRA!



THERE'S  
ANOTHER.

...STRONG  
PLAYER  
ISN'T  
ENOUGH.

IT'S A  
TEAM  
TOURNA-  
MENT,  
SO  
HAVING  
ONE...



THEY SAY  
AKIRA  
TOYA'S A  
CONTENDAH!

THE  
SECURITY  
GUARDS  
WERE  
CHATTING  
ABOUT IT.



BUT  
TOYA ASIDE,  
I HEAR OUR  
TALENT POOL'S  
VERY SHALLOW  
COMPARED TO  
THE CHINESE  
AND  
KOREANS.



MAYBE.  
HE SHOWS A LOT  
OF POTENTIAL,  
BUT HAS NO  
PROFESSIONAL  
RECORD TO  
SPEAK OF.

THEN  
JAPAN  
HAS A  
REAL  
SHOT!



HUH?!



...HAS  
SOME FAS-  
CINATING...  
ECCEN-  
TRICITIES.

HE JUST  
WENT PRO,  
BUT HIS  
AMATEUR  
RECORD...

THEN WHY'S HE  
GOT PEOPLE  
INTERESTED?

REALLY?

YOU'RE UP  
ON IT THAT  
MUCH?

OH...

IT'S  
WORKING  
INFORMATION,  
NOTHING  
MORE.

SOMEONE  
FROM THE  
KANSAI GO  
ASSOCIA-  
TION TOLD  
ME ON THE  
PHONE THE  
OTHER  
DAY.

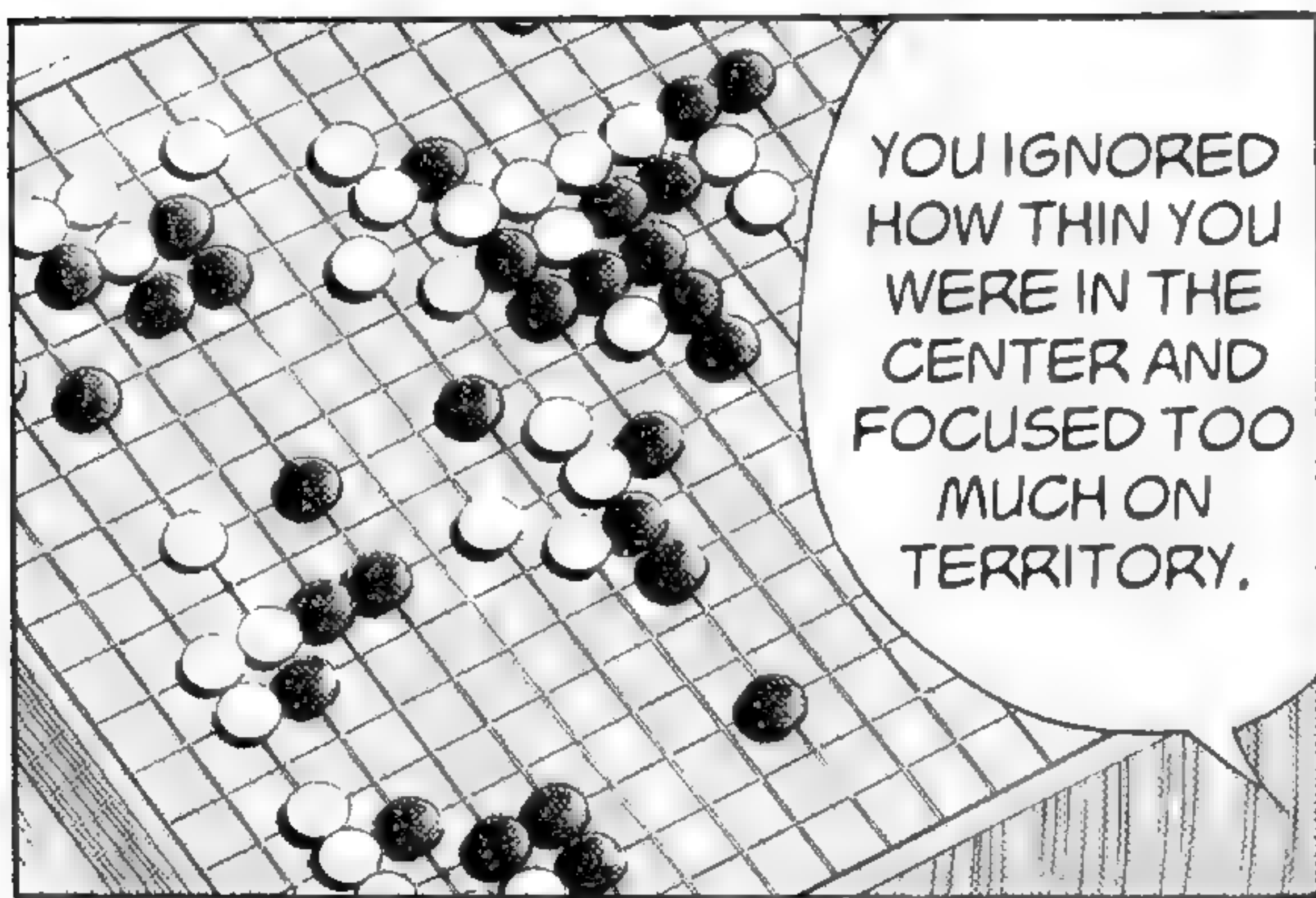
YOU'LL NEED  
TO FUNCTION  
WITH  
DETACHMENT  
THE DAY OF  
THE TOURNA-  
MENT.

CAREFUL...  
DON'T LET YOUR  
PATRIOTIC  
FERVOR GET  
OUT OF HAND.

ㄖ ㄖ  
8

FINE!  
BE THAT  
WAY!

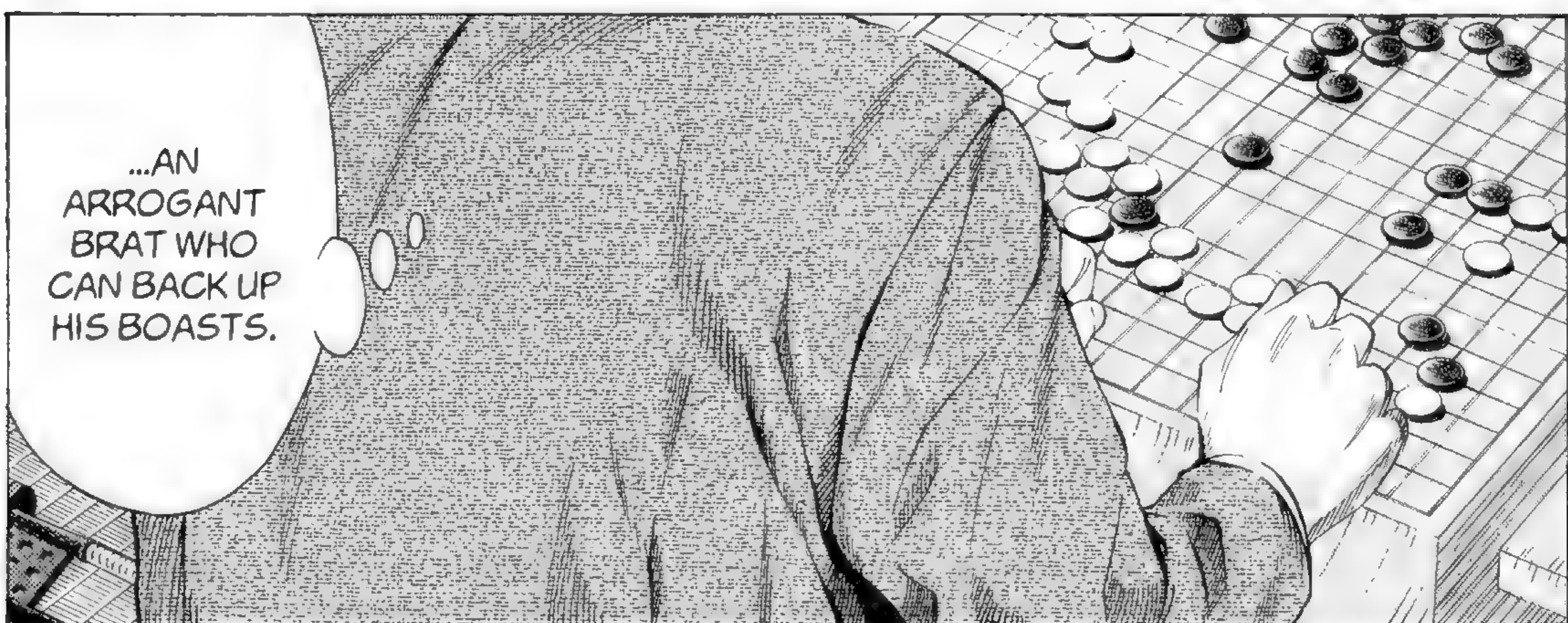




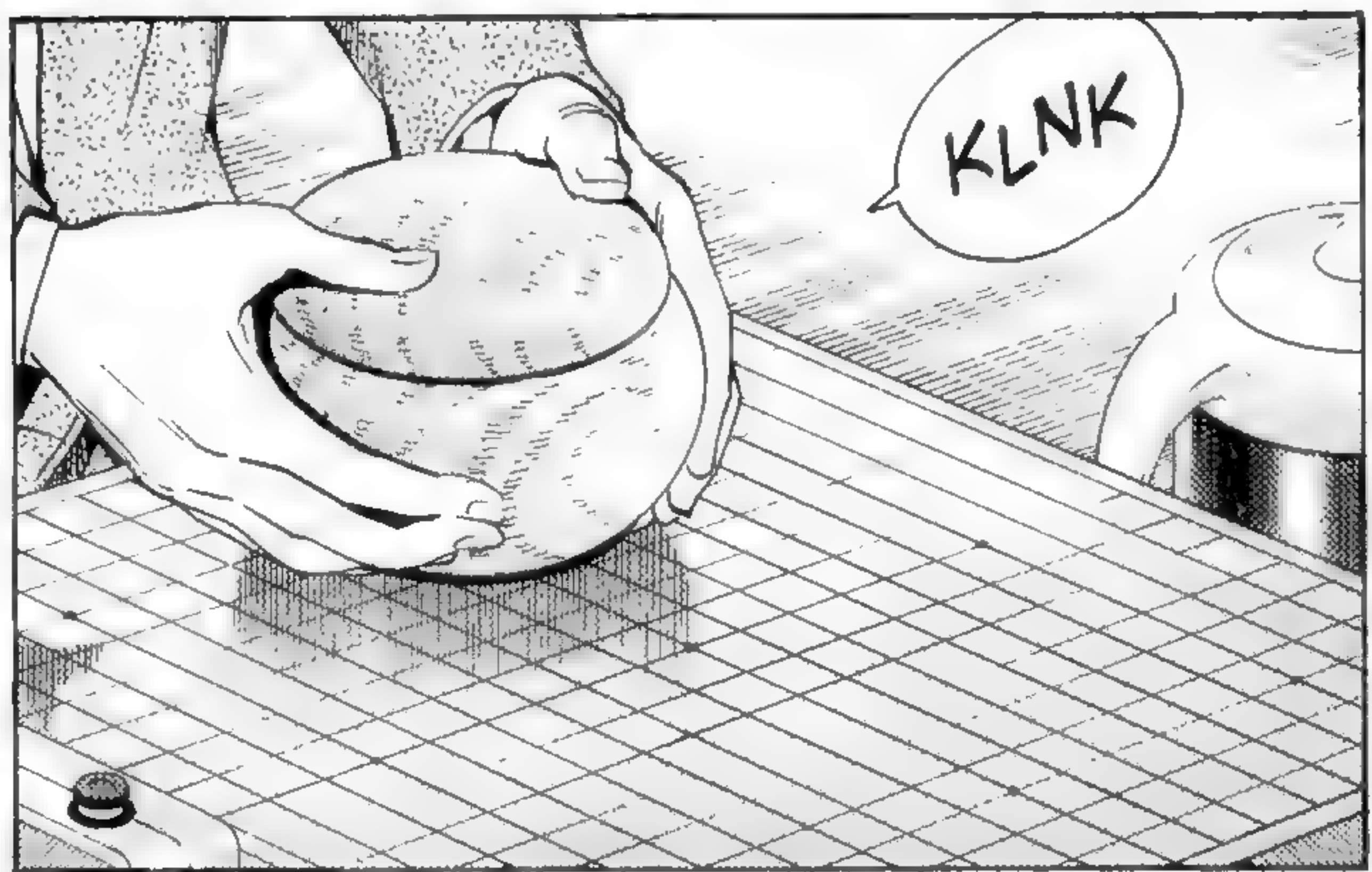




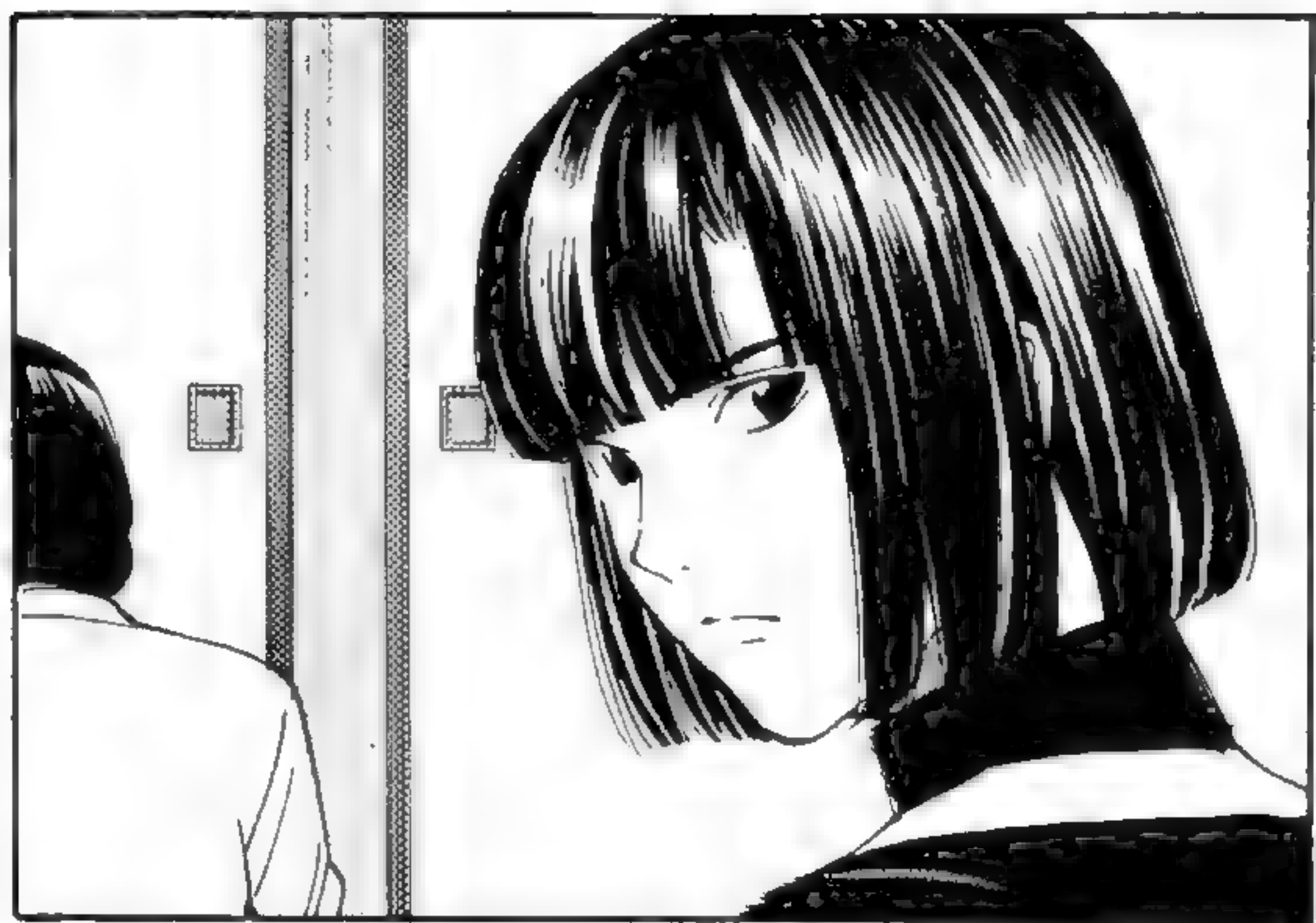








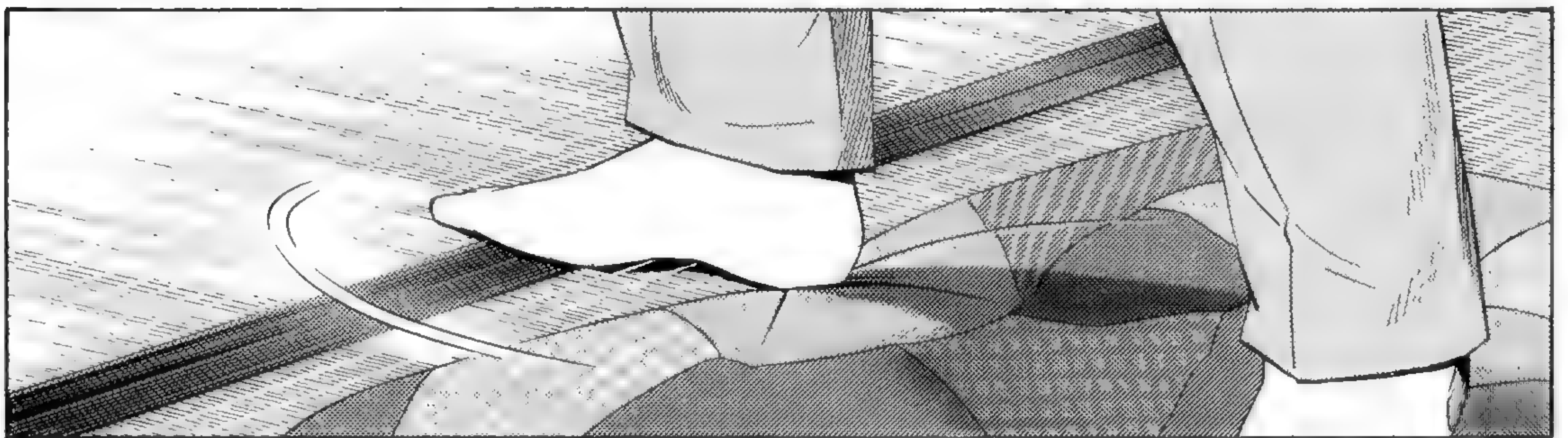




















HIKARU

SHINDO



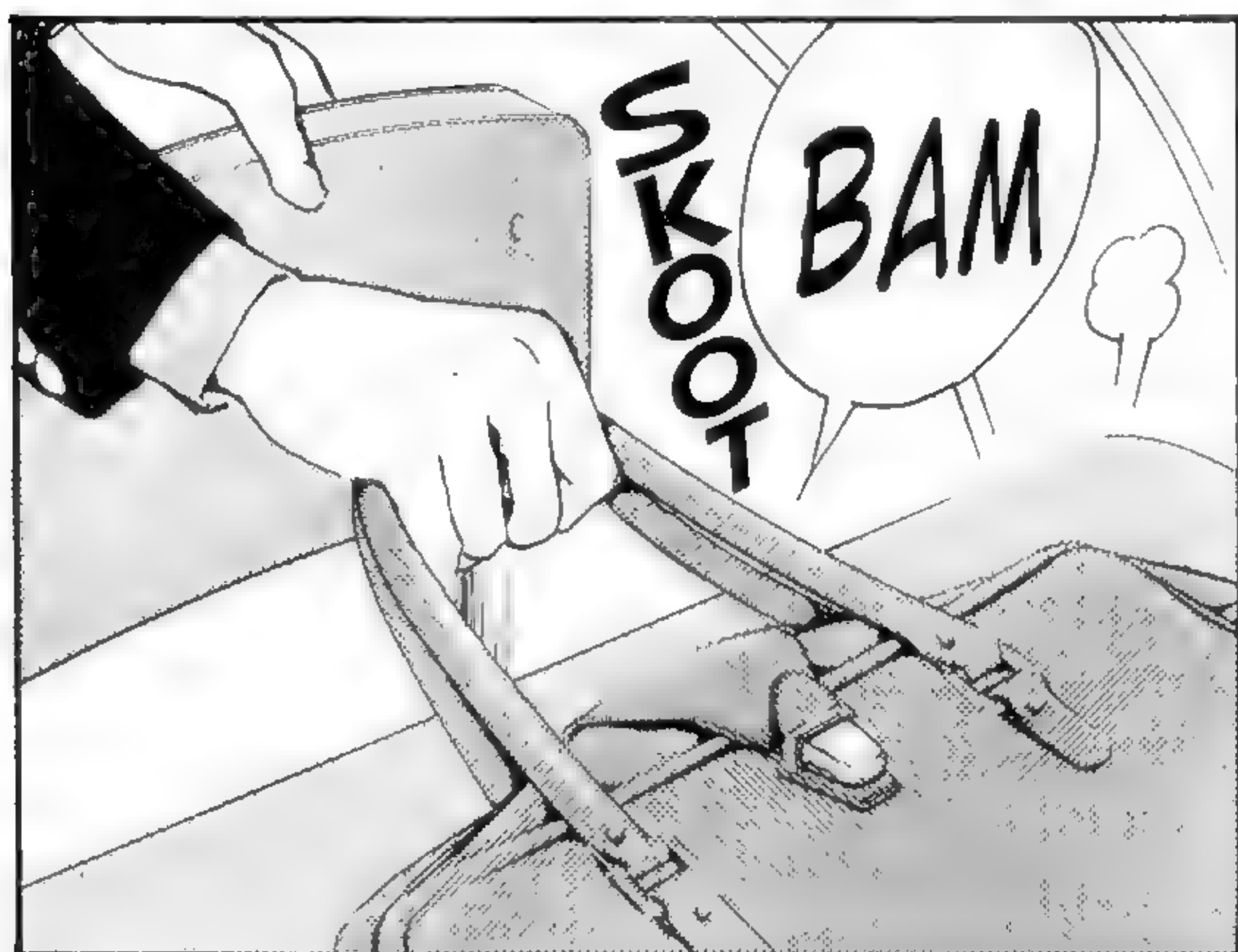
## Game 154 "Kenzan Ueshima!"



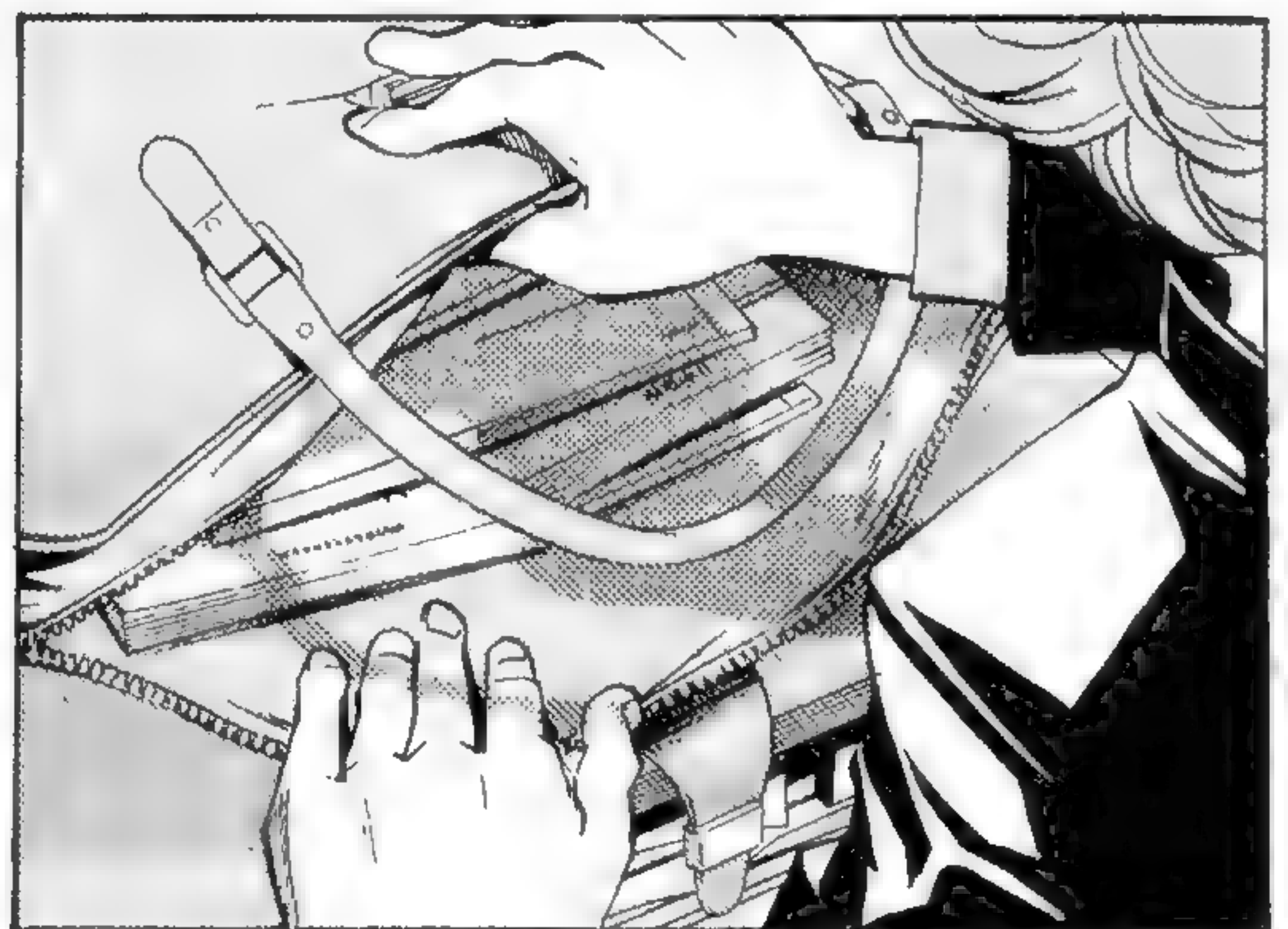
















HEY,  
FUJISAKI!  
LOOKING  
FOR  
SHINDO?



SHE'S  
AMAZING.  
COM-  
PARED  
TO HER,  
I'M...

KANEKO  
ALREADY  
EARNED EARLY  
ADMISSION  
TO A TOP HIGH  
SCHOOL.



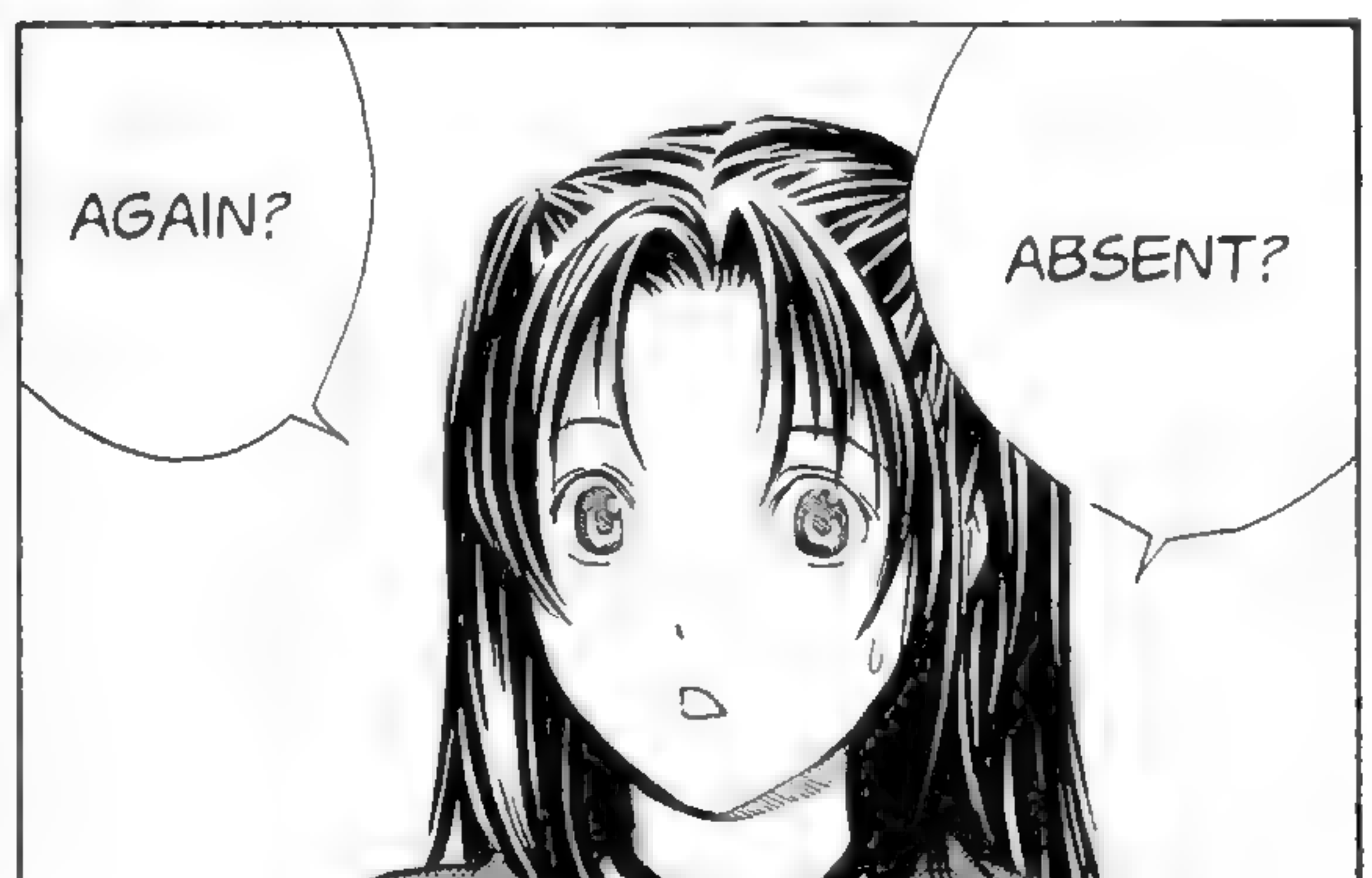
SHINDO'S  
ABSENT  
TODAY.

OH! NO!  
NOTHING  
LIKE THAT!  
I...



UH-  
HUH...

WASN'T HE  
ABSENT  
THE OTHER  
DAY?



AGAIN?

ABSENT?





SHINDO'S  
MISSING A  
LOT OF  
SCHOOL  
THESE  
DAYS.



MAKES SENSE  
I GUESS,  
WHAT WITH  
GO MATCHES  
AND STUDY  
SESSIONS...



HERE.  
REDO THE  
ONES  
MARKED  
WITH AN "X."



GUESS HE  
DOESN'T  
PLAN TO GO  
TO HIGH  
SCHOOL.



WHAT KIND OF  
FUN WOULD HE  
HAVE AT SCHOOL  
ANYWAY? EVERY-  
ONE'S STRESSED  
TO THE MAX,  
CRAMMING FOR  
ENTRANCE  
EXAMS.

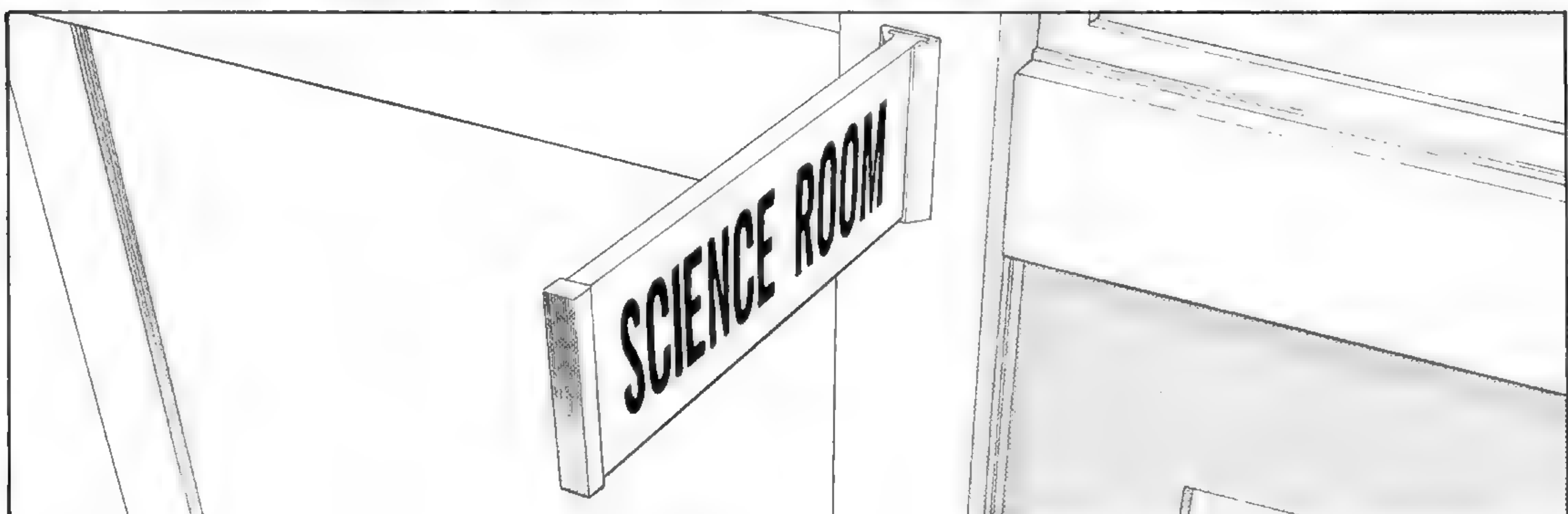


SHINDO  
LIVES NEAR  
YOU,  
DOESN'T  
HE?



SEEMS  
WE'RE ALL  
GOING OUR  
SEPARATE  
WAYS.











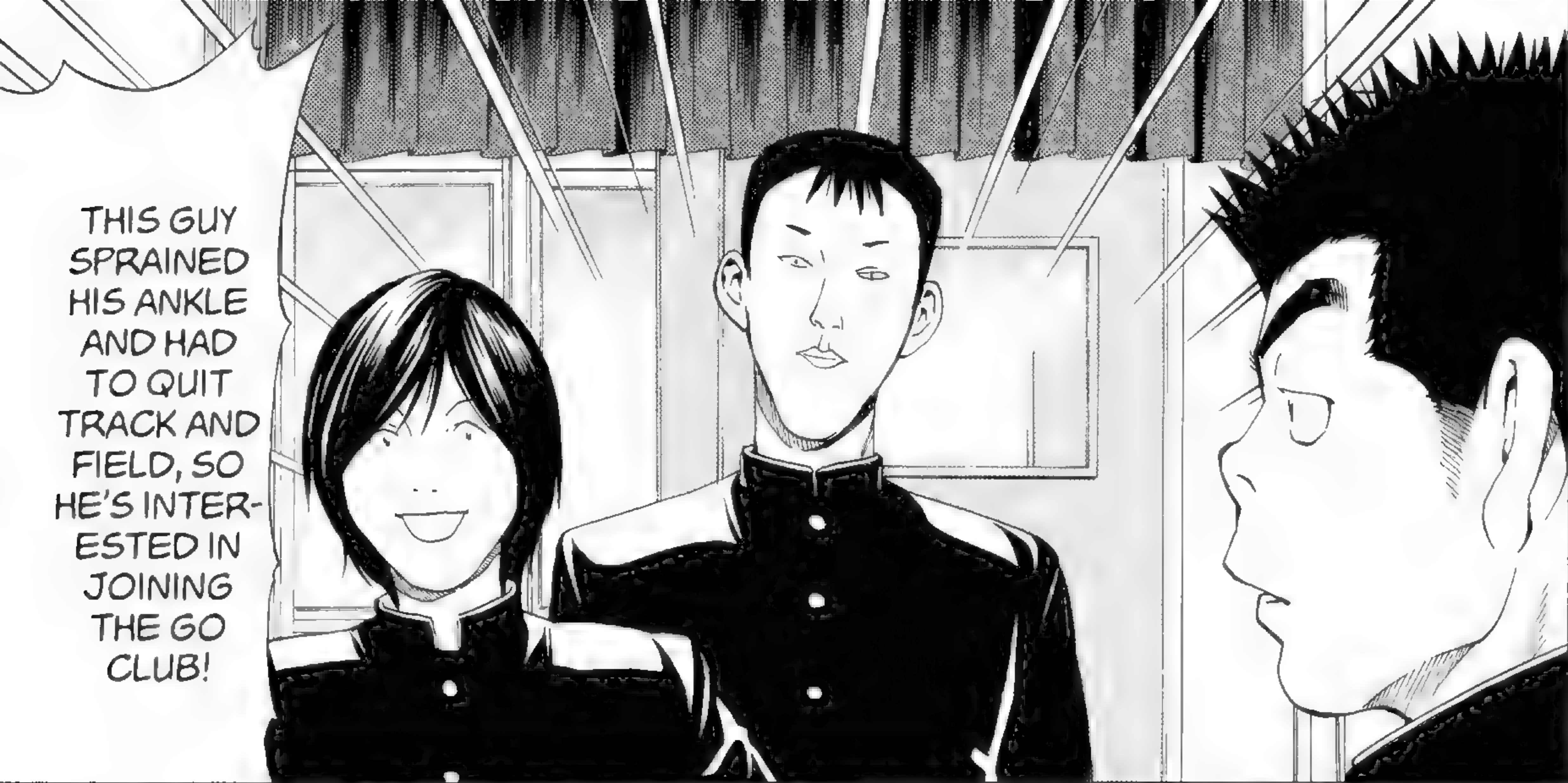








THIS GUY  
SPRAINED  
HIS ANKLE  
AND HAD  
TO QUIT  
TRACK AND  
FIELD, SO  
HE'S INTER-  
ESTED IN  
JOINING  
THE GO  
CLUB!



HANG  
ON...

AND HE'S NOT  
A BEGINNER  
EITHER.



HEY!  
WAIT!

HE SAYS HE  
PLAYS HIS DAD  
ALL THE TIME  
AT HOME.



HEY...

FOR  
REAL?!



MY NAME'S  
UESHIMA.  
NICE TO  
MEET YOU.

IT'S ME,  
GOT  
IT?!

I'M THE  
THIRD MAN  
ON THE  
TEAM!







WE GO IN  
ORDER OF  
SKILL!  
DUH!

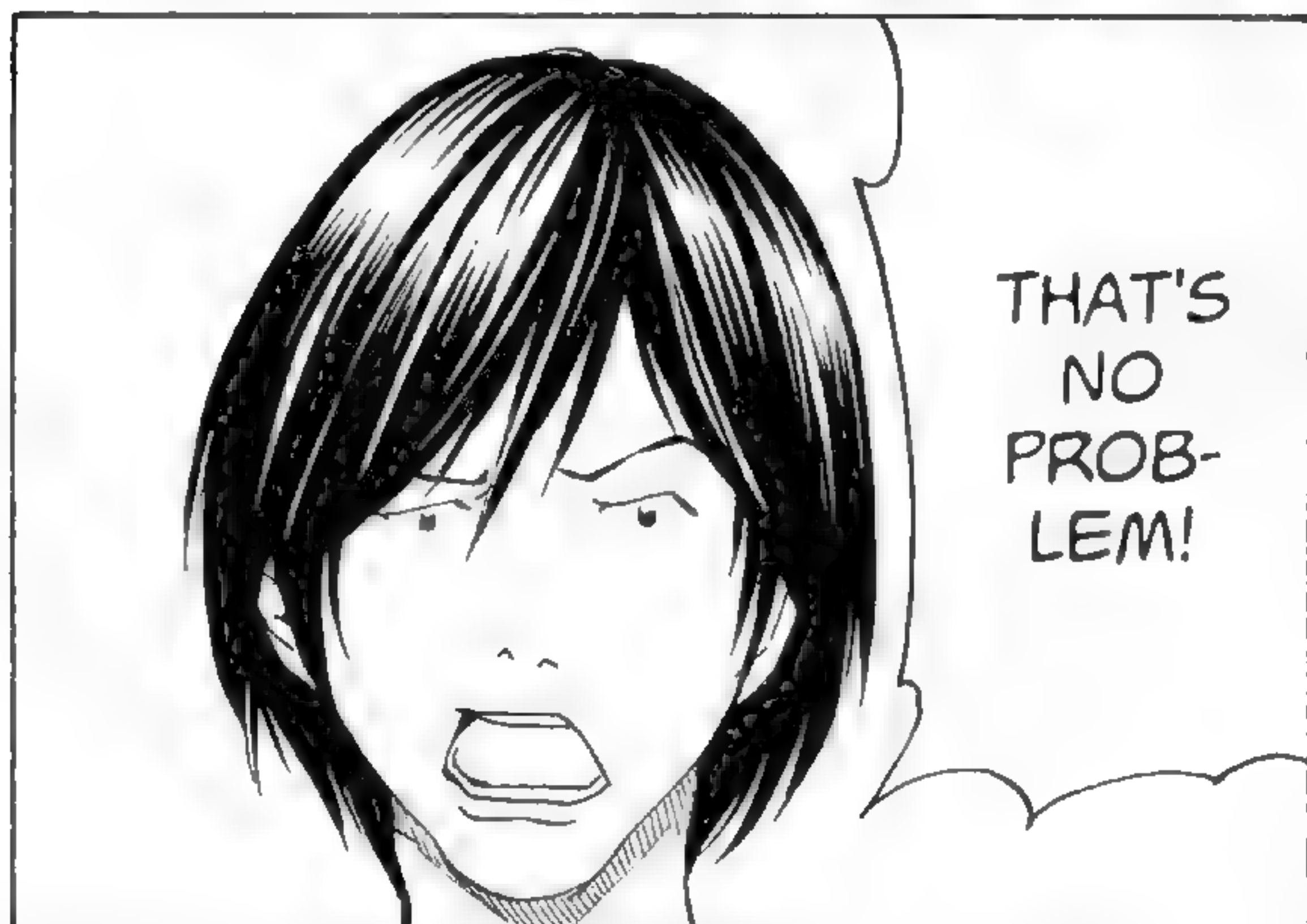
SHUT UP,  
OKAMURA!



THAT WE  
MIGHT HAVE A  
CHANCE IN THIS  
TOURNAMENT!  
I'M BREATHLESS  
WITH  
EXCITEMENT!

WHATTA  
YA MEAN  
BY  
THAT?!

WHOA  
THERE,  
YABE!



THAT'S  
NO  
PROB-  
LEM!



I ALREADY  
REGISTERED  
OKAMURA,  
YOU AND ME  
FOR THE TOURNA-  
MENT!

IT'S  
NOT  
THAT  
SIMPLE!





"OH, I  
SEE..."  
?!

OH,  
I SEE...



UESHIMA!  
WE MIGHT  
BOTH BE  
FIRST-YEARS,  
BUT I HAVE  
SENIORITY IN  
THIS CLUB!



UESHIMA  
HERE CAN  
PLAY UNDER  
THE NAME  
OKAMURA.

IT'S  
NOT?



OKAMURA!  
WHAT'S  
THE BIG  
DEAL?!

OH... OH  
YEAH?!

FINE BY ME.  
I CAN BE  
"OKAMURA" OR  
YOU CAN... IT'S NO  
SKIN OFF MY  
NOSE.



ME, I  
WANNA GO  
INTO THIS  
TOURNA-  
MENT WITH  
A DECENT  
TEAM!

YOU HAVEN'T  
HELPED US GET  
NEW MEMBERS,  
AND YOU CAN'T  
PLAY GO WORTH  
A DARN!  
SO WHAT'S IT  
TO YOU?!









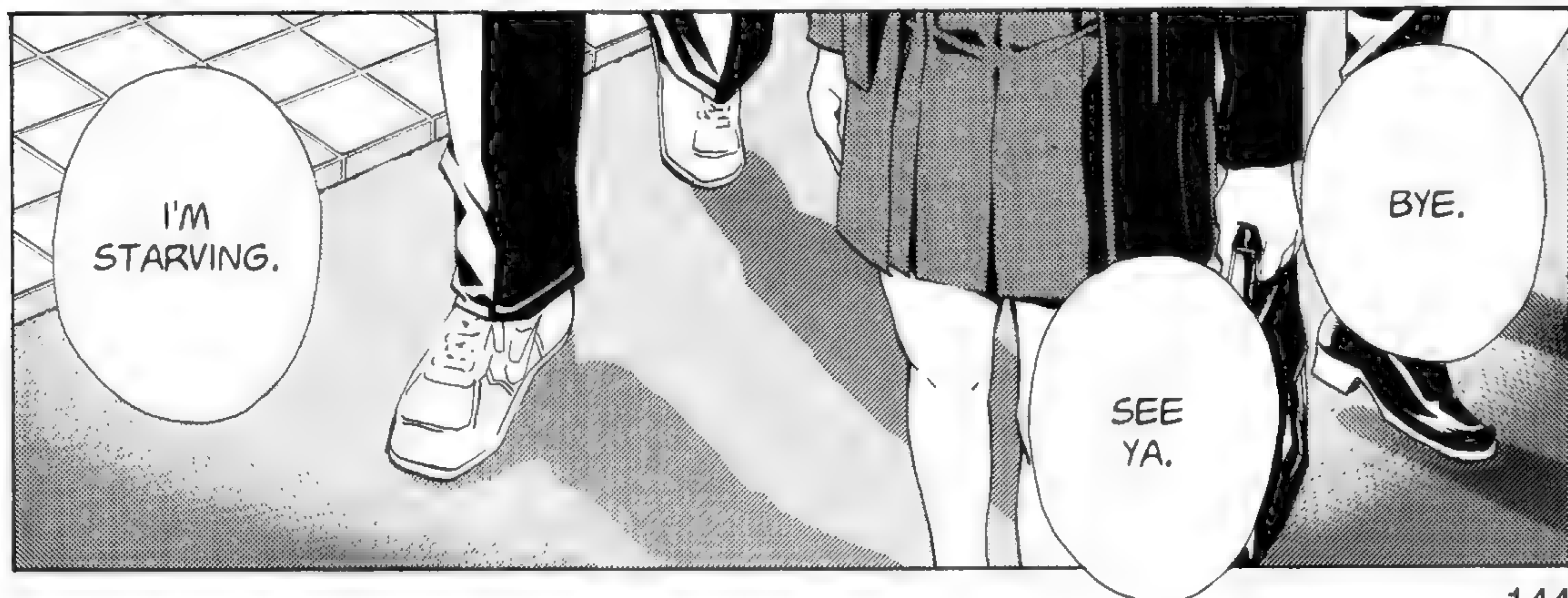
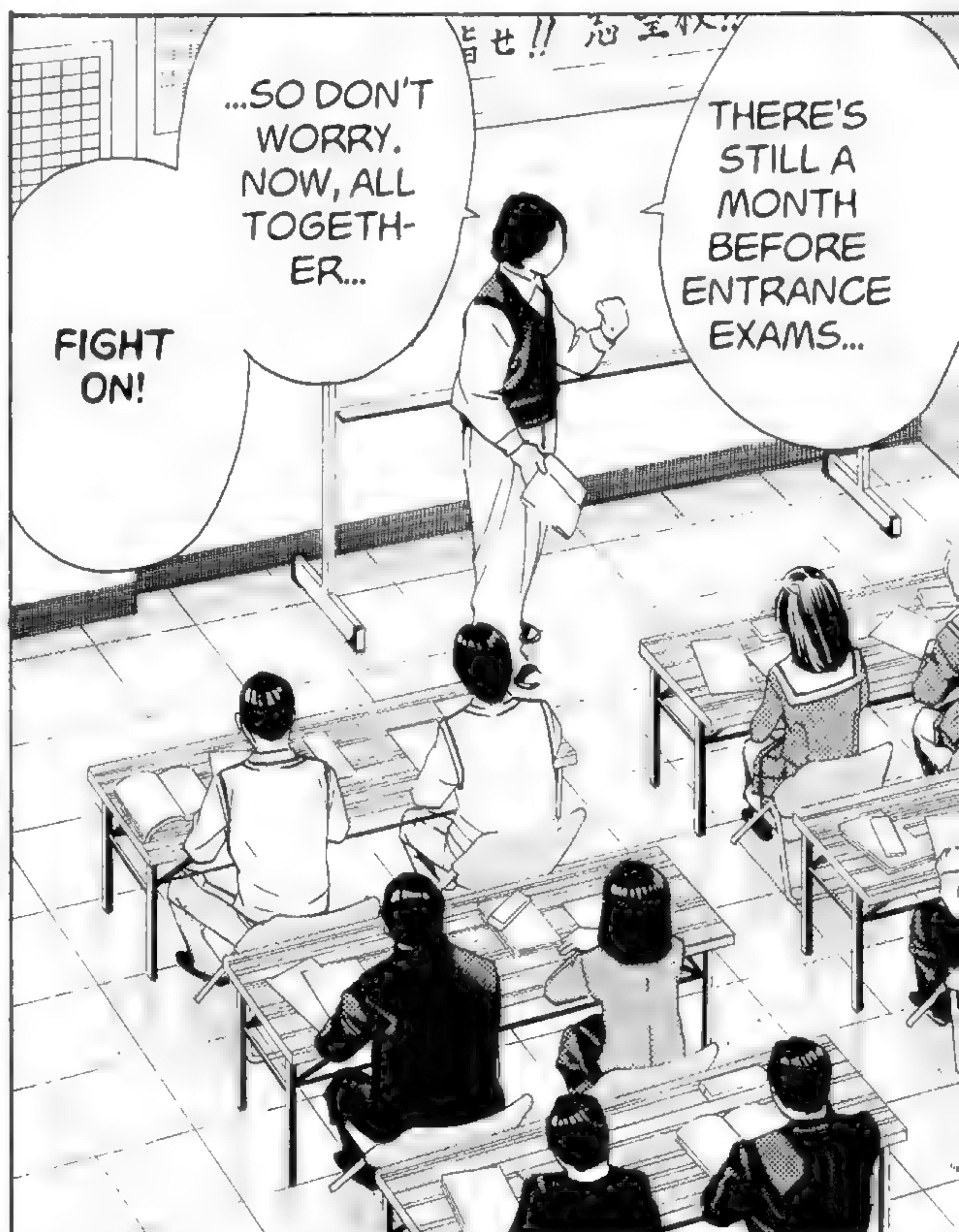




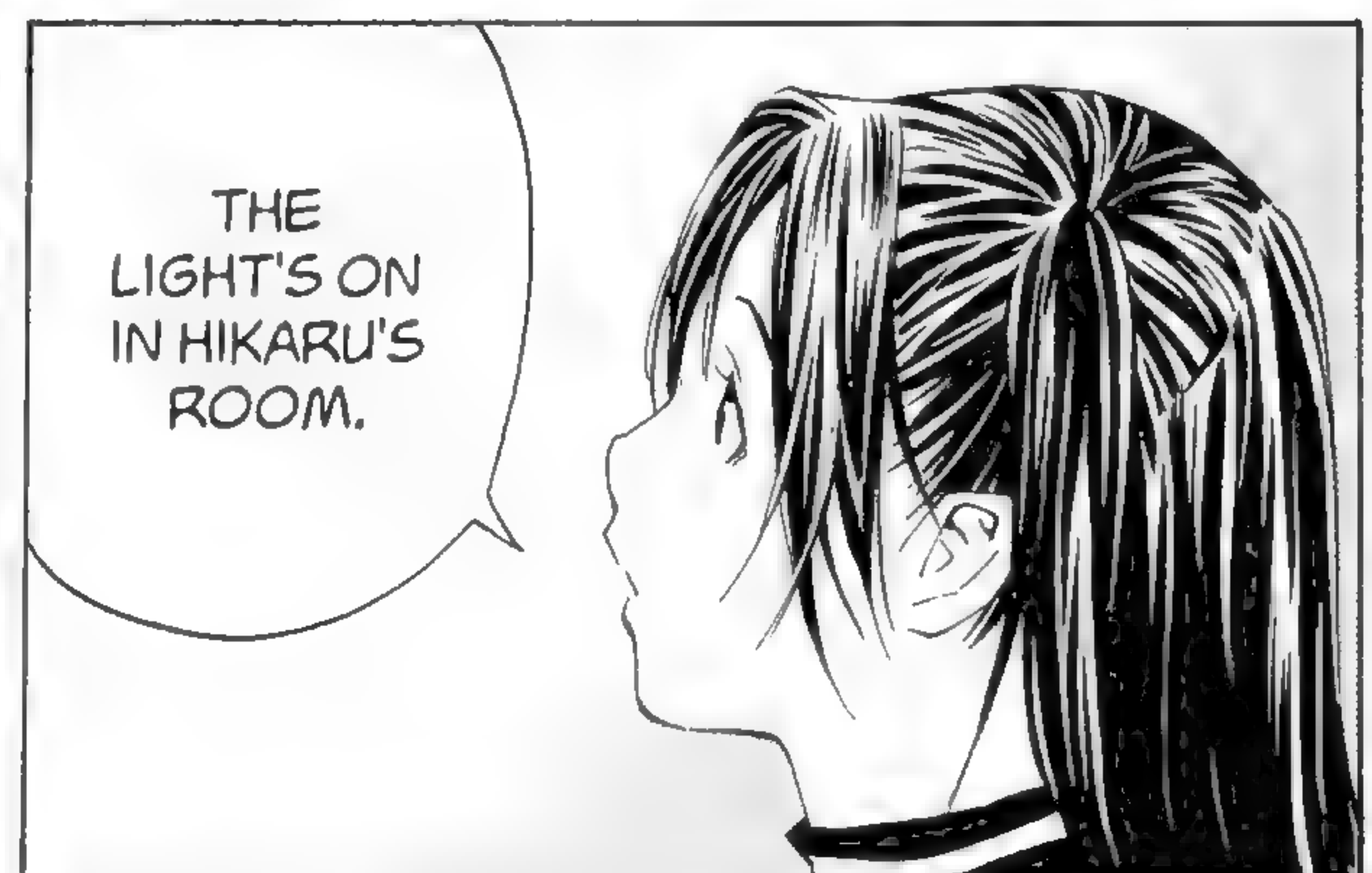
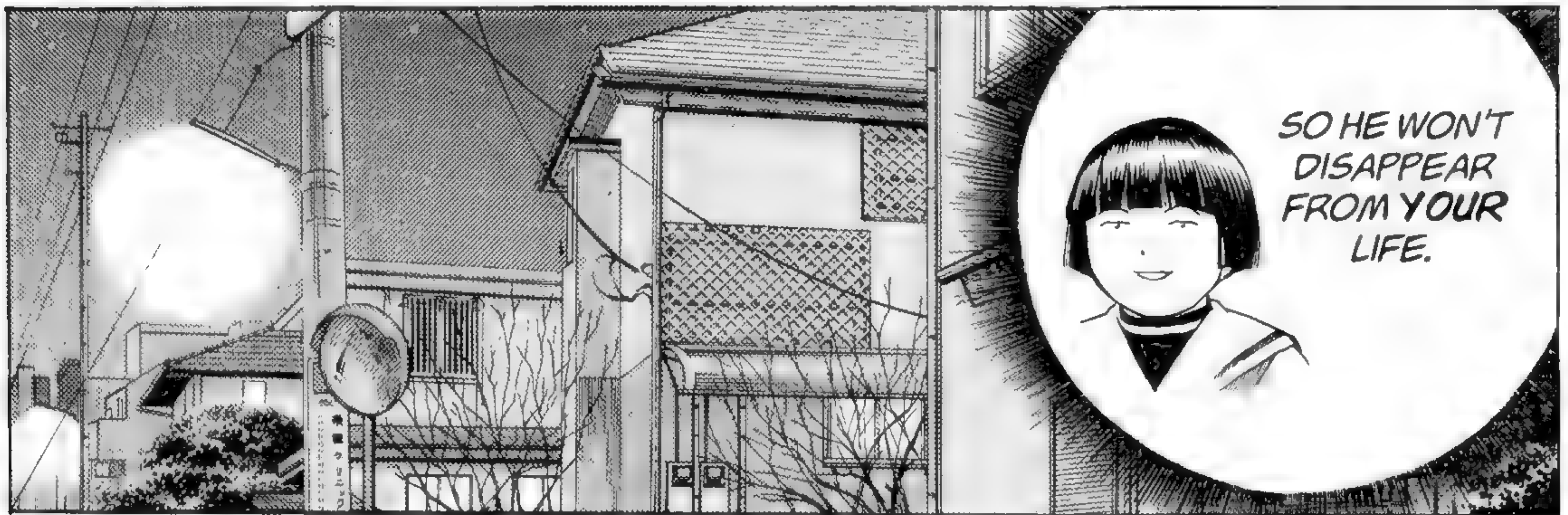
















OH... HELLO,  
MRS.  
SHINDO!

AGH!

AKARI,  
RIGHT?



THE TEACHER  
SAYS IT'S  
BORDERLINE  
WHETHER OR  
NOT I'LL  
QUALIFY FOR  
MY TOP  
SCHOOL  
CHOICE.



ON YOUR WAY  
HOME FROM  
CRAM SCHOOL?  
IT'S HARD,  
ISN'T IT.

YES,  
MA'AM, IT  
SURE IS.



THANK YOU.  
UM... WERE  
YOU OUT  
SHOPPING  
THIS LATE?

THAT IS  
ROUGH.  
WELL, I  
WISH YOU  
THE  
BEST.



YOU DIDN'T  
ASK HIKARU  
TO GO OUT  
AND GET  
THEM FOR  
YOU?

...SPARE  
BULBS, SO  
IN SPITE OF  
THE COLD I  
POPPED  
OUT TO GET  
SOME.

THE  
BATHROOM  
LIGHT  
BURNED  
OUT, AND  
THERE  
WERE  
NO...

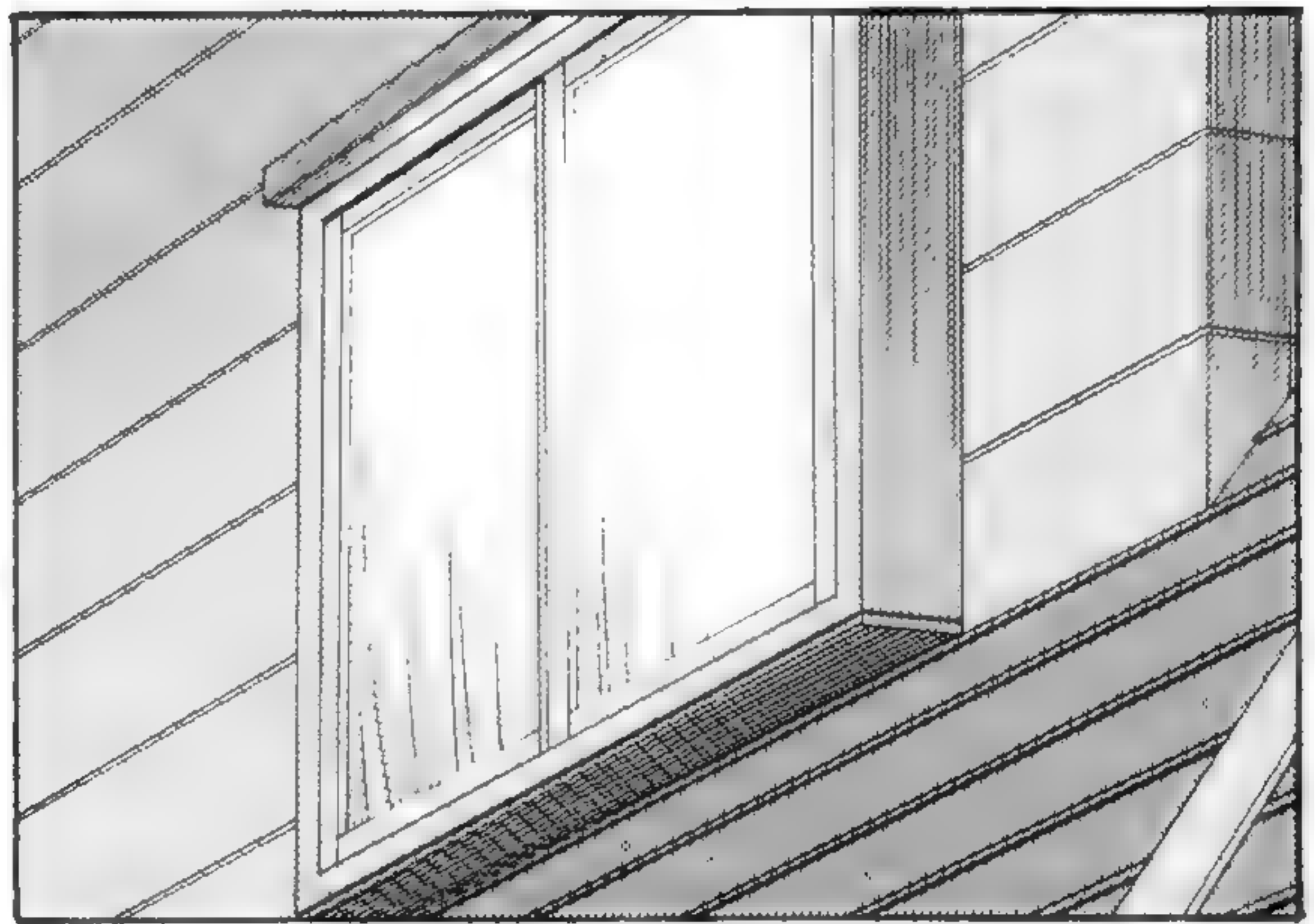
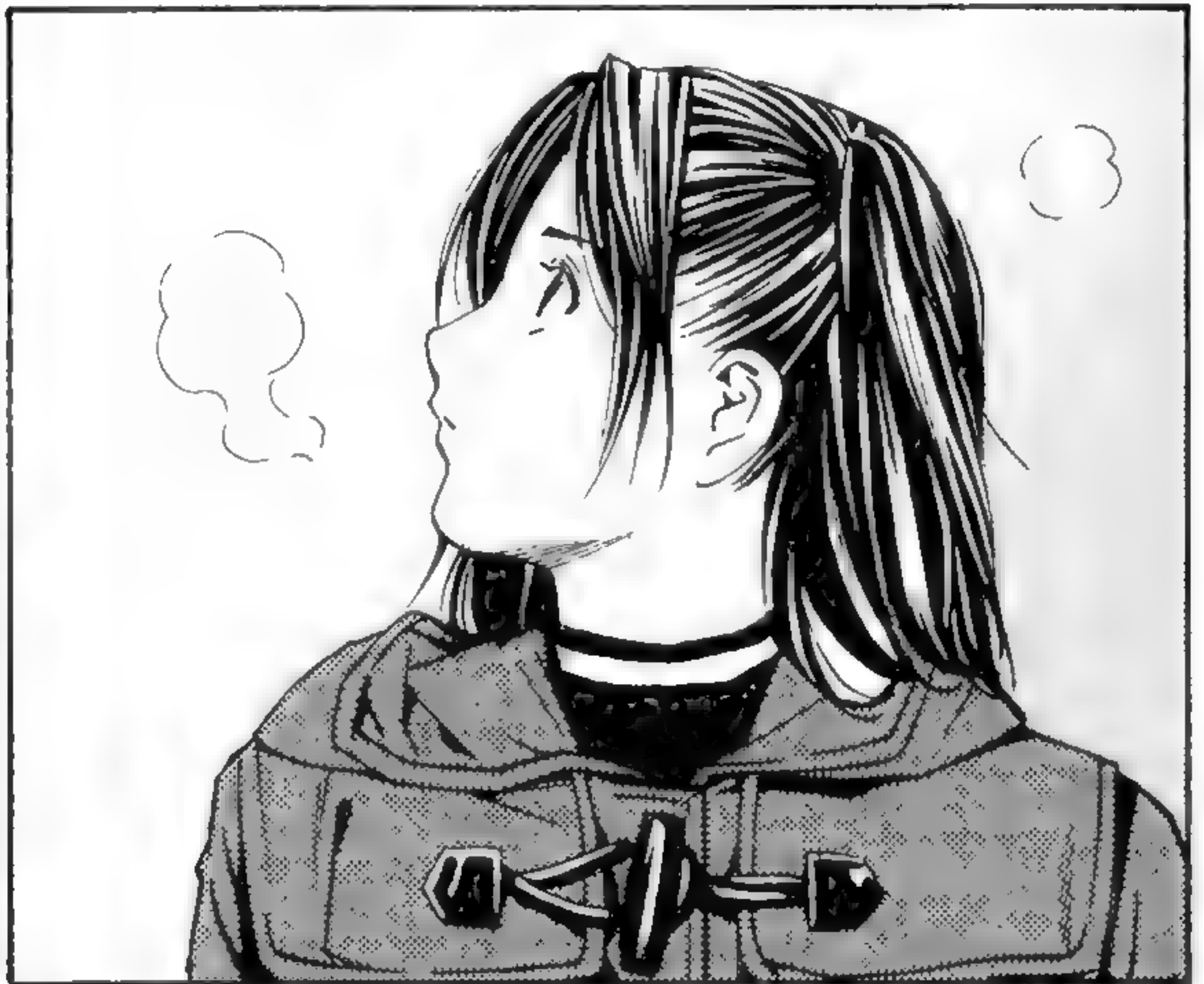






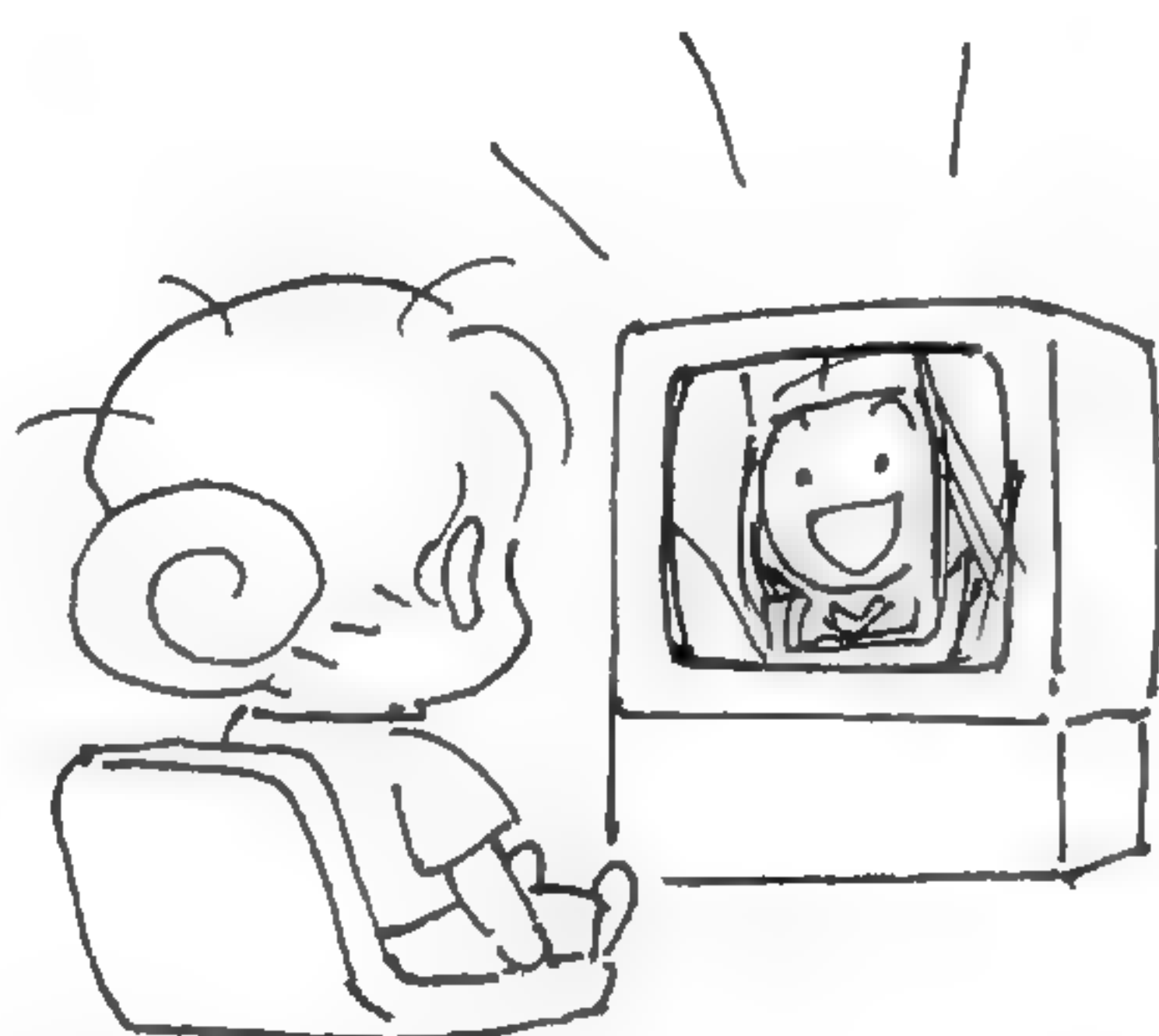








...IS ON  
EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
EVENING AT  
7:27 P.M.  
(REGIONAL  
AIR TIMES  
MAY VARY.)



THE  
HIKARU  
NO GO  
ANIME  
ON TV...

# HIKARU NO GO

STORYBOARDS

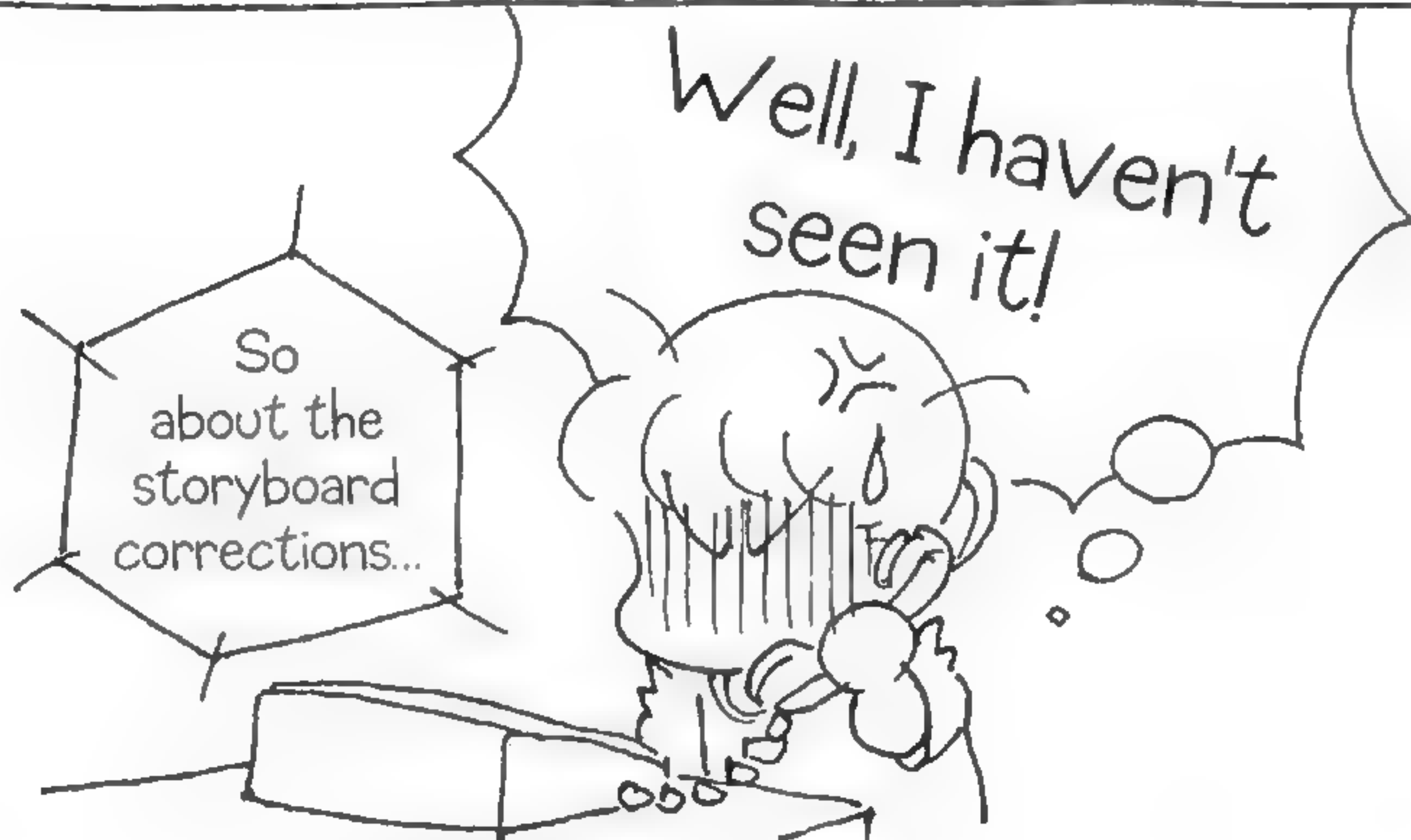
45

YUMI  
HOTTA



...HAS  
CALLED  
ME JUST  
AT THAT  
TIME ON  
MORE  
THAN ONE  
OCCASION.

BUT MY  
EDITOR,  
TAKA-  
HASHI...



HE RE-  
PLIED, "I  
WATCHED  
THE VIDEO  
THEY SENT  
ME YES-  
TERDAY."

I ASKED,  
"YOU  
DON'T  
WATCH  
THE  
ANIME?"

Okay.



Please don't call  
me at 7:30 p.m.  
on Wednesdays.



SO ANOTHER  
EDITOR  
NAMED  
YOSHIDA  
GOT  
ASSIGNED  
TO HIKARU  
NO GO.

THAT'S  
TAKAHASHI  
FOR YOU, BUT  
HE GOT PRO-  
MOTED TO  
ASSISTANT  
EDITOR-IN-  
CHIEF.





Game  
155  
"The  
Two  
No-  
Shows"







CLICK

WHAT'S THE  
MATTER?  
THOUGHT ALL  
YOU YOUNG  
FOLKS LIKED  
TO GET YOUR  
PICTURE  
TAKEN.

PLEASE,  
SIR, I...

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE  
THE PROMISING  
YOUNG PRO WHO  
PASSED THE  
ENTIRE PRO TEST  
UNDEFEATED!

I SUPPOSE IF I  
PLAY YOU WHEN  
YOU'RE A LITTLE  
TENSE, YOU'LL  
JUST TOSS ME  
OFF LIKE IT'S  
NOTHING.

GO ASSOCIATION

HUH?  
WELL... ER...  
I DON'T...

TOO BAD.  
A GO PLAYER NEEDS  
PHYSICAL STAMINA.  
COME ALONG  
WHEN I PLAY GOLF  
AND BE MY CADDY.  
THAT'LL HELP  
YOU GET IN  
SHAPE.

CLICK

KUWA-  
BARA'S IN  
CONTROL.

囲碁教室 2F

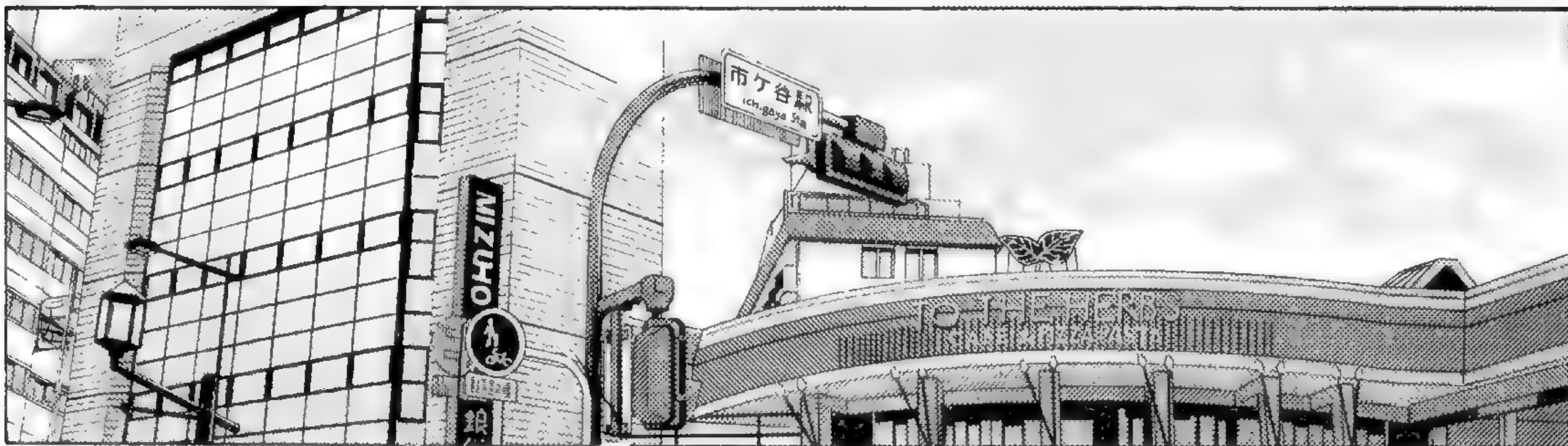
- ・入門から初・中・上級まで  
どなたでも入会できます
- ・主の指導料用  
いつでも受けられます
- ・定 午前11時～午後5時

WHEW!  
KUWABARA  
SENSEI'S  
PUTTING THE  
PRESSURE  
ON  
ALREADY.

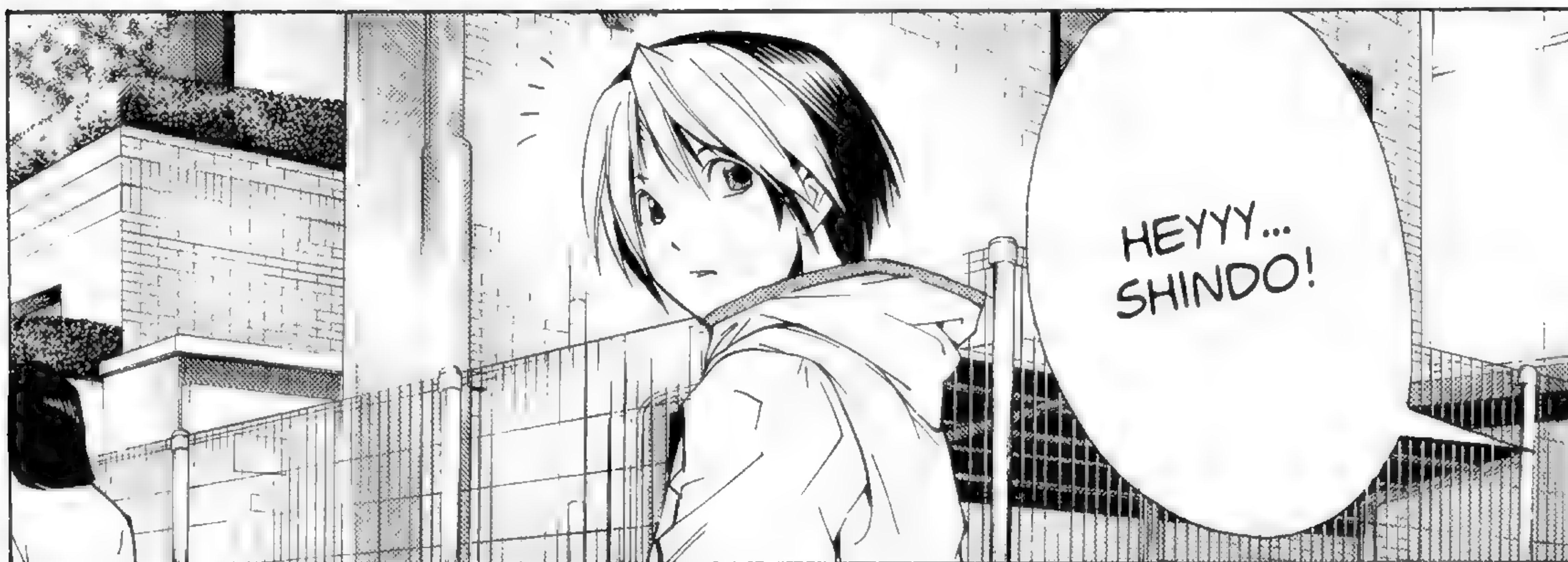
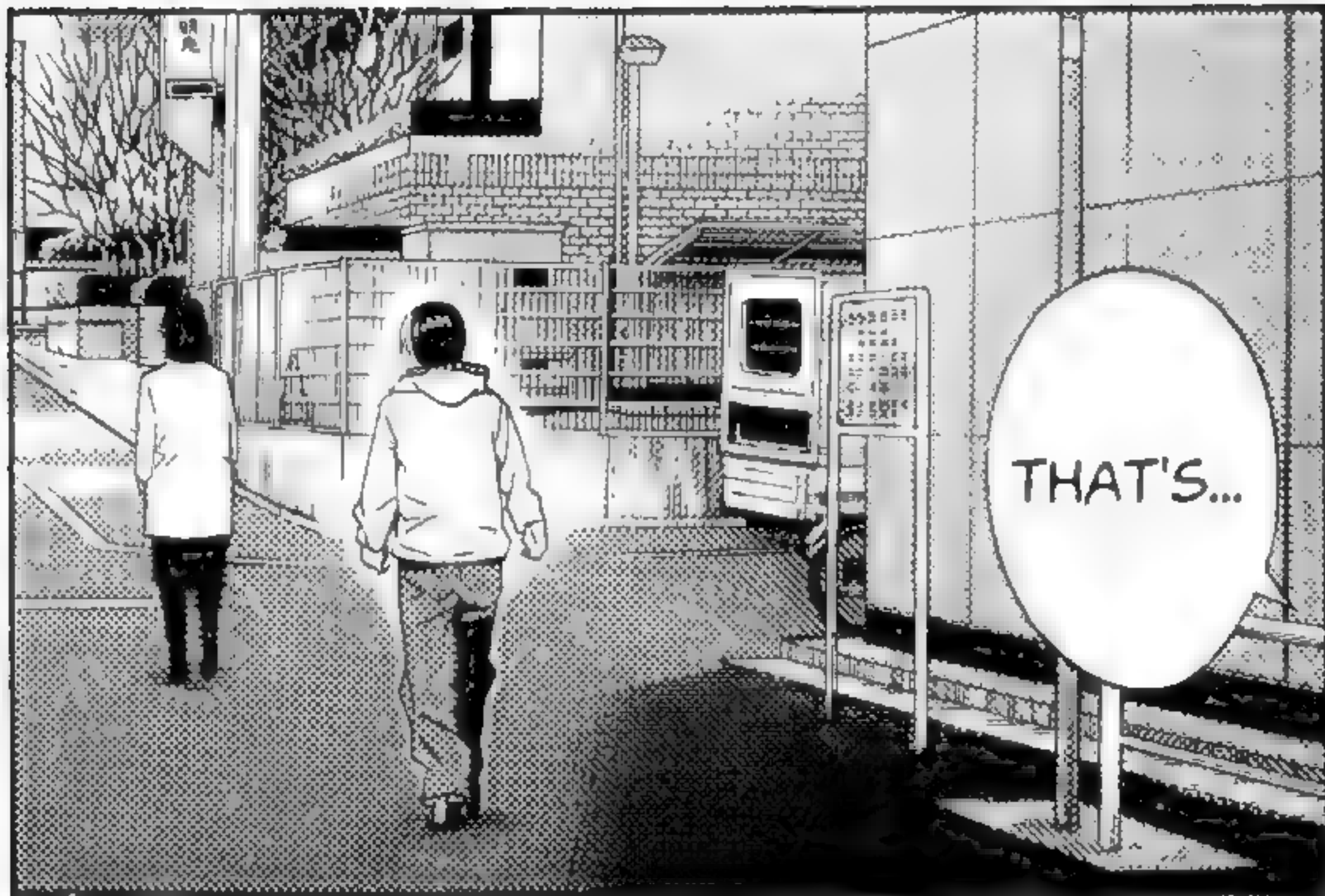
ER...  
N-NO...

YOU'RE A BIT THIN,  
BUT OTHERWISE  
WELL SET UP.  
DO YOU PLAY ANY  
SPORTS?













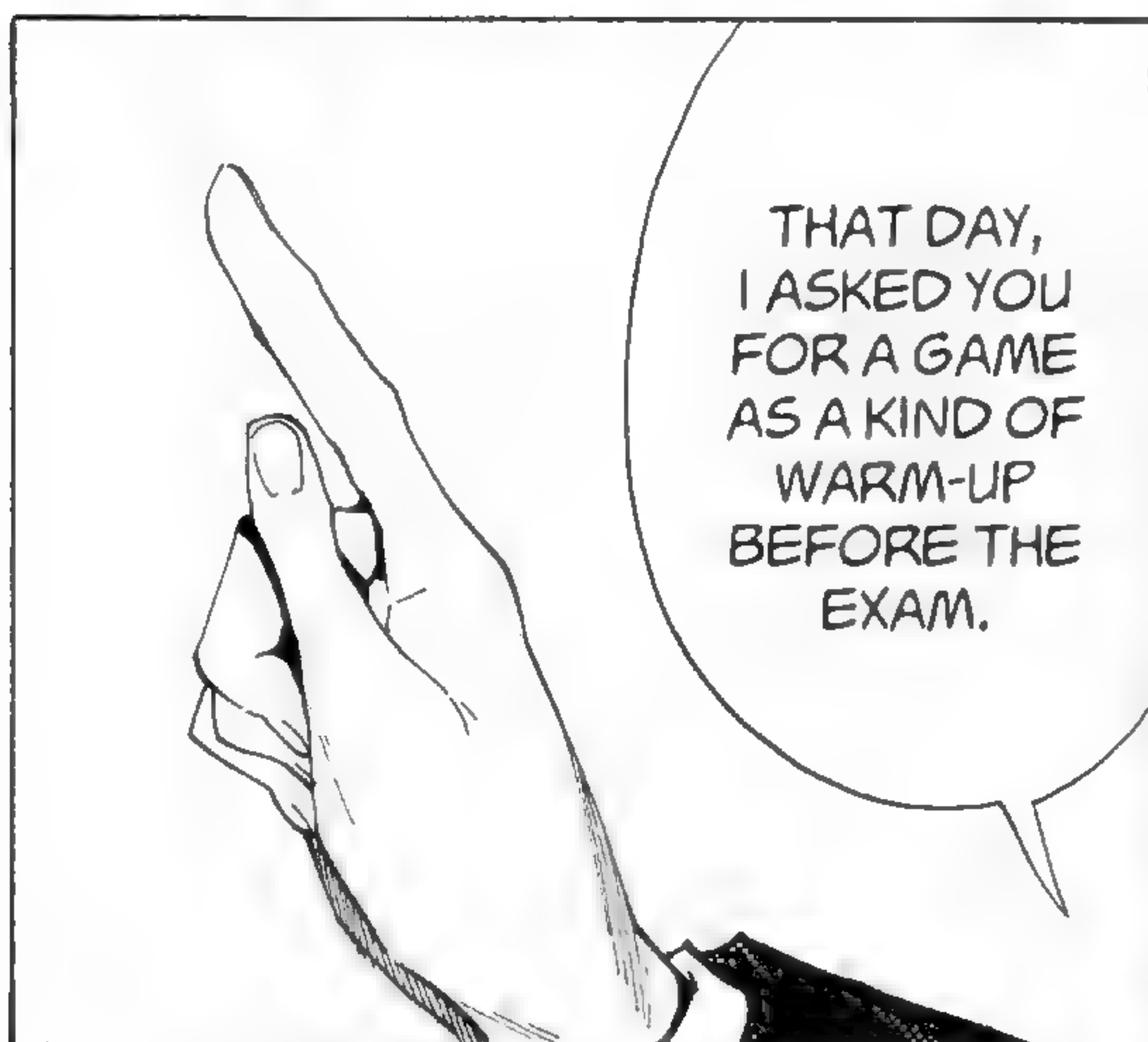
YOU  
REMEMBER  
THAT?  
I'M HONORED.



SURE  
DID.

SAW ME IN  
GO WEEKLY,  
PERHAPS?

I WAS  
SURPRISED  
WHEN I SAW THE  
PHOTOS OF THE  
NEW PLAYERS  
WHO PASSED  
THE PRO EXAM  
THIS YEAR.  
I REMEMBERED  
PLAYING YOU  
ONCE WHEN I  
WAS AN INSEI.



THAT DAY,  
I ASKED YOU  
FOR A GAME  
AS A KIND OF  
WARM-UP  
BEFORE THE  
EXAM.



YEAH?

I'D  
PLANNED  
TO TAKE  
THE PRO  
EXAM THE  
SAME YEAR  
AS YOU.



I THOUGHT,  
"I'M NOT  
GOOD  
ENOUGH  
YET."

I REALIZED HOW  
UNREADY I WAS,  
AND POSTPONED  
FOR A YEAR.

BUT EVEN  
THOUGH YOU  
WERE STILL AN  
INSEI, YOU  
CLOBBERED  
ME.





...AND  
REALLY GET  
MY BUTT IN  
GEAR.

I REALIZED  
I HAD TO  
AIM  
HIGHER...

I MAY HAVE HAD  
THE CONFIDENCE  
TO PASS, BUT  
NOT THE  
CONFIDENCE TO  
GO UP AGAINST  
PLAYERS LIKE  
YOU.



GEE...



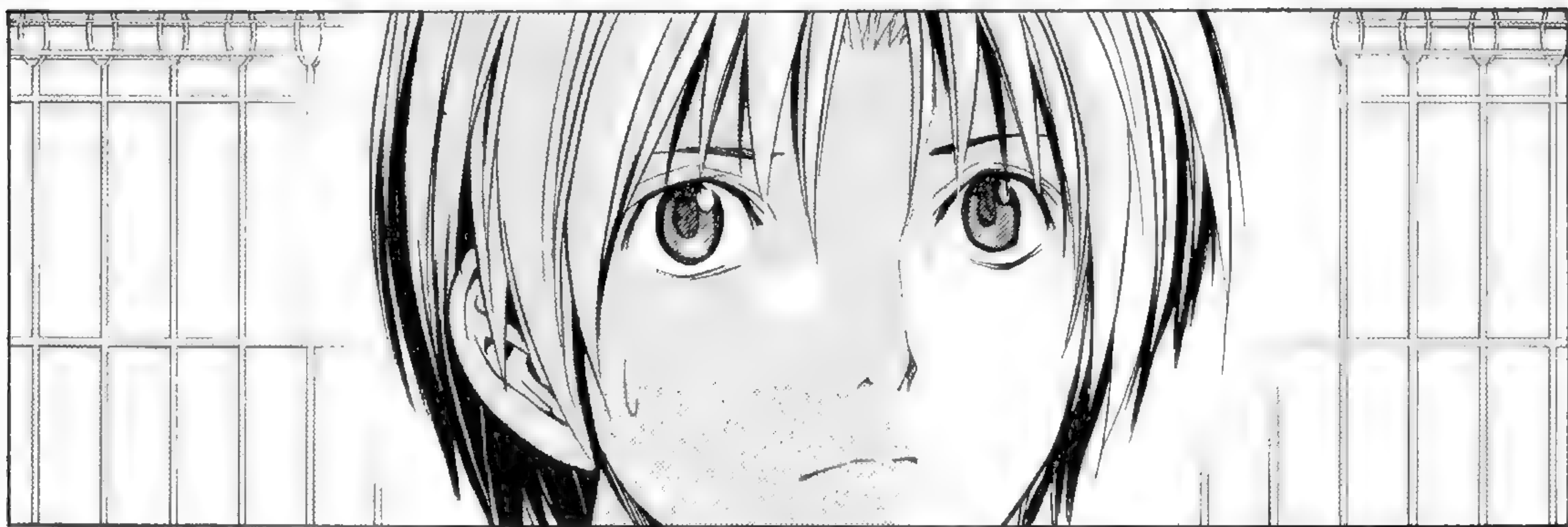
THAT'S  
HOW  
GOOD YOU  
WERE.

I'M A  
CONFIDENT  
GUY, BUT YOU  
MADE ME  
THINK.



BUT THEN YOU  
REALLY HIT THE  
WALL, LOSING  
THREE TIMES IN  
THE PRO EXAM.

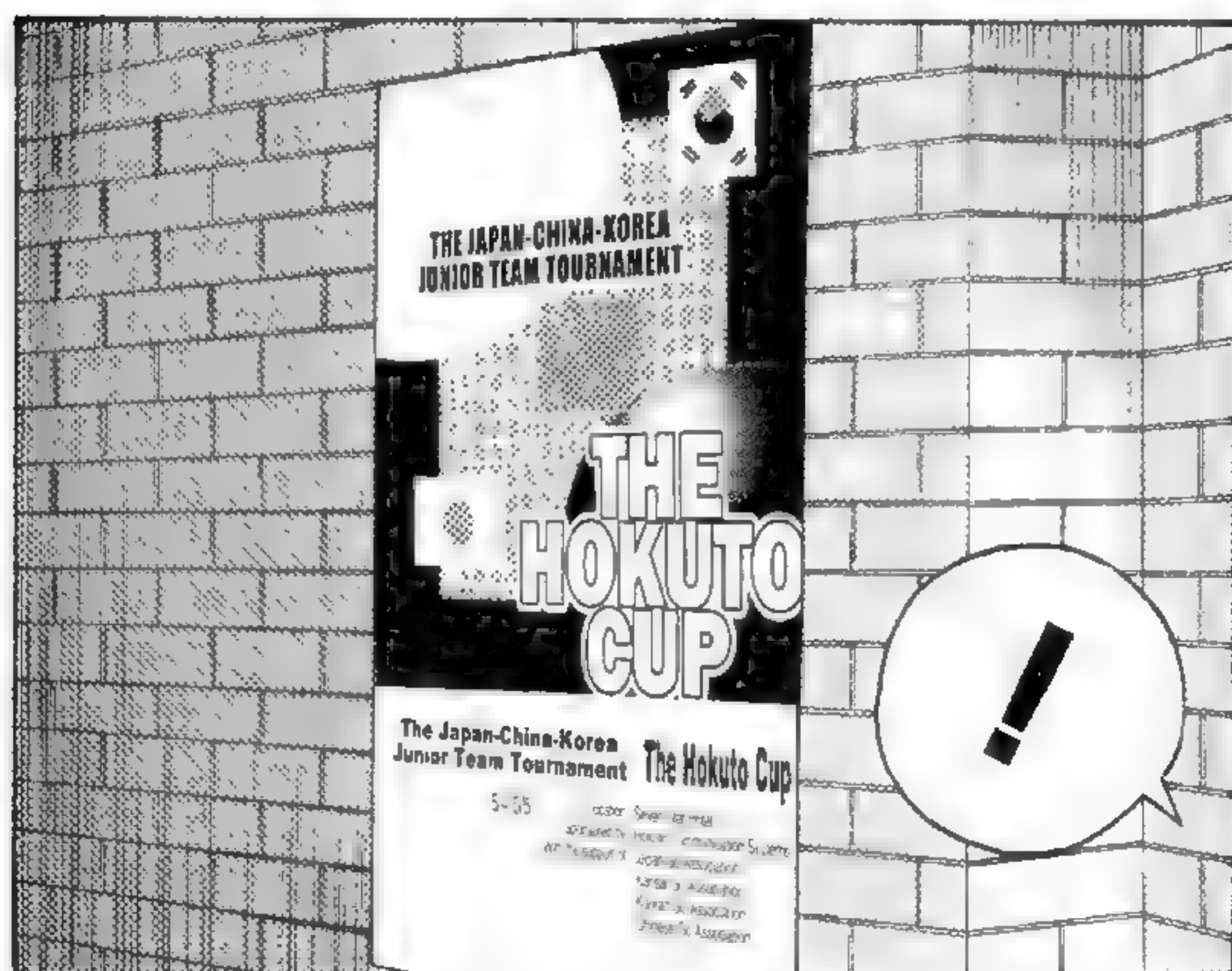
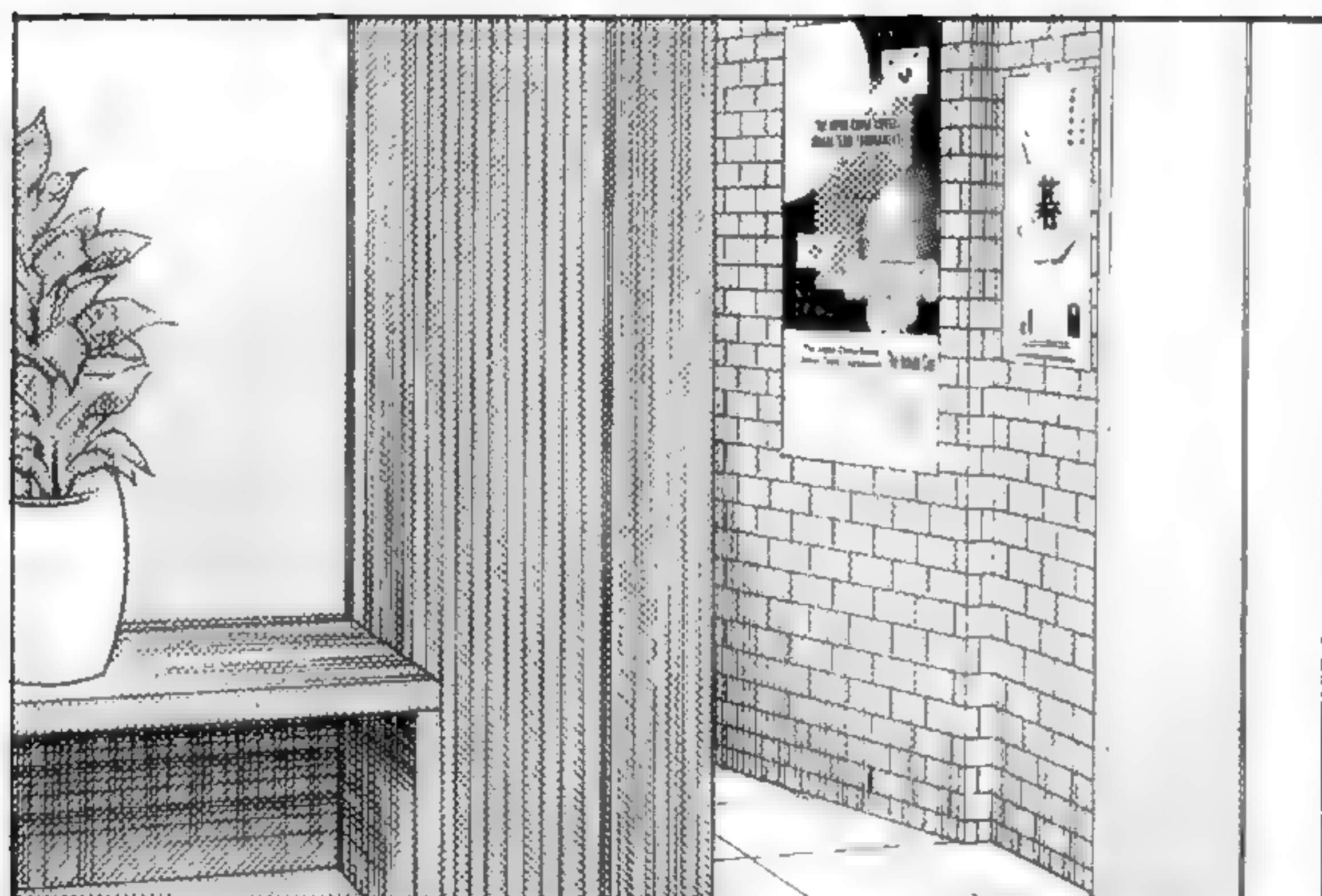
















...THERE'S  
SOMEONE  
PROMISING  
IN THE  
KANSAI GO  
ASSOCIA-  
TION.

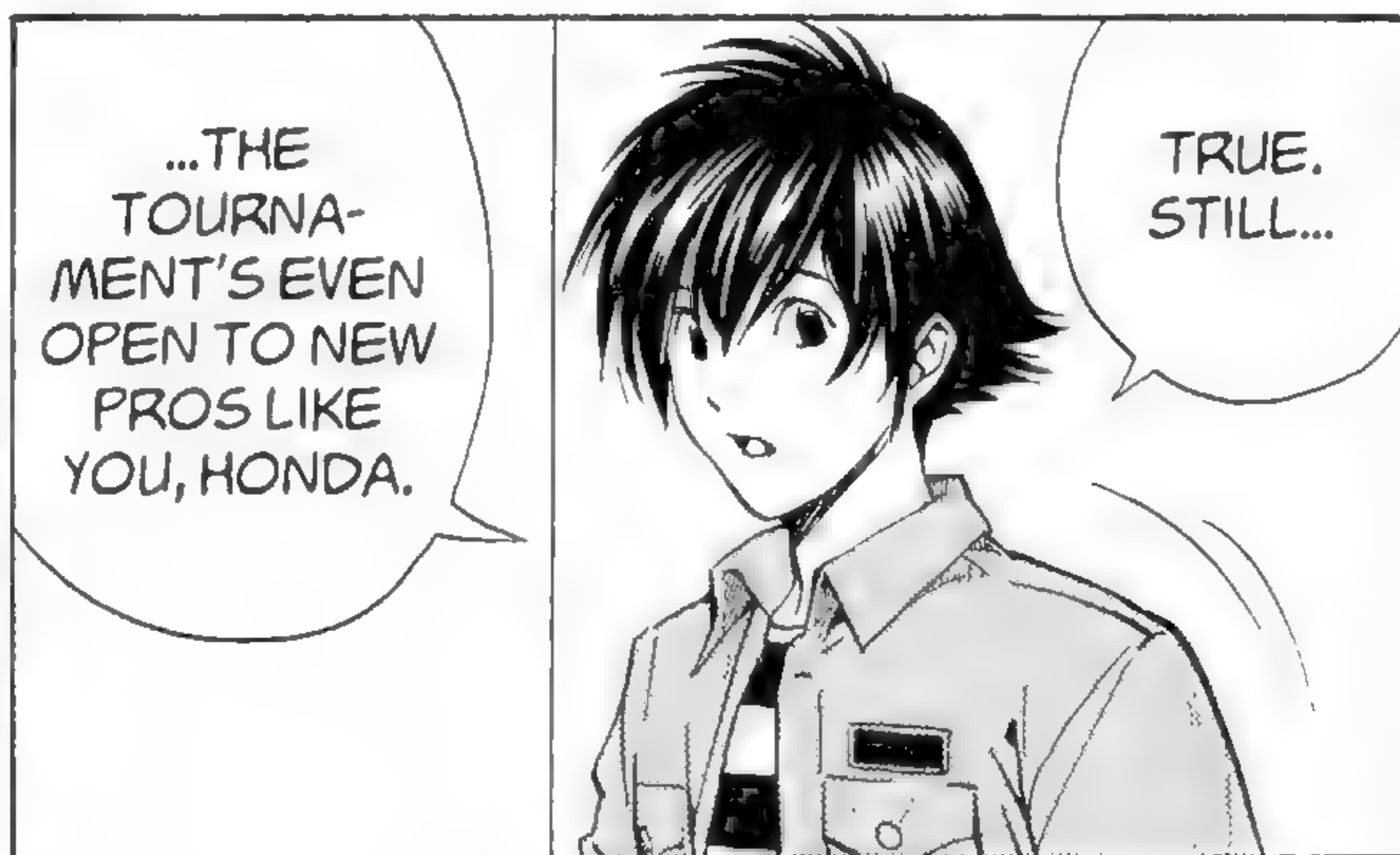
SPEAKING  
OF THE NEW  
PROS, I  
HEAR...



...PLAYERS 18  
AND UNDER  
USUALLY  
DON'T HAVE  
LONG TRACK  
RECORDS,  
SO IT'D BE  
HARD TO  
JUDGE BY  
THAT.

SHINDO  
MADE IT  
THAT FAR  
TOO.  
ANYWAY...

K  
L  
A  
K



...THE  
TOURNA-  
MENT'S EVEN  
OPEN TO NEW  
PROS LIKE  
YOU, HONDA.

TRUE.  
STILL...



MAYBE  
WE'LL ALL  
BE IN ONE  
QUALIFYING  
TOURNA-  
MENT!

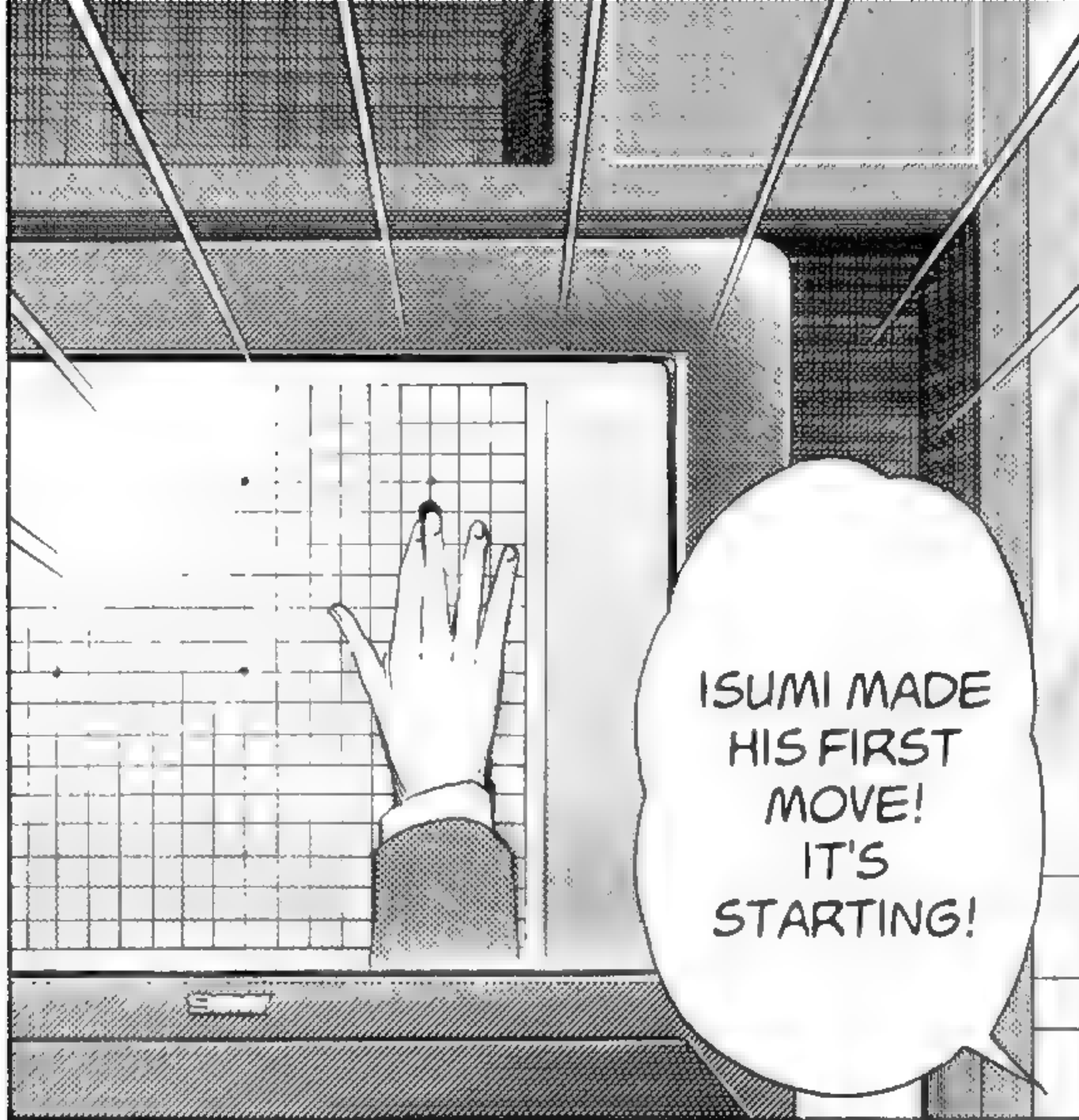
AND  
JAPAN GO  
ASSOCIATION  
PLAYERS  
FROM THE  
CENTRAL AND  
WESTERN  
AREAS.



OH YEAH?  
WHO?

THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
THOSE  
GUYS CAN  
PARTICIPATE  
TOO.

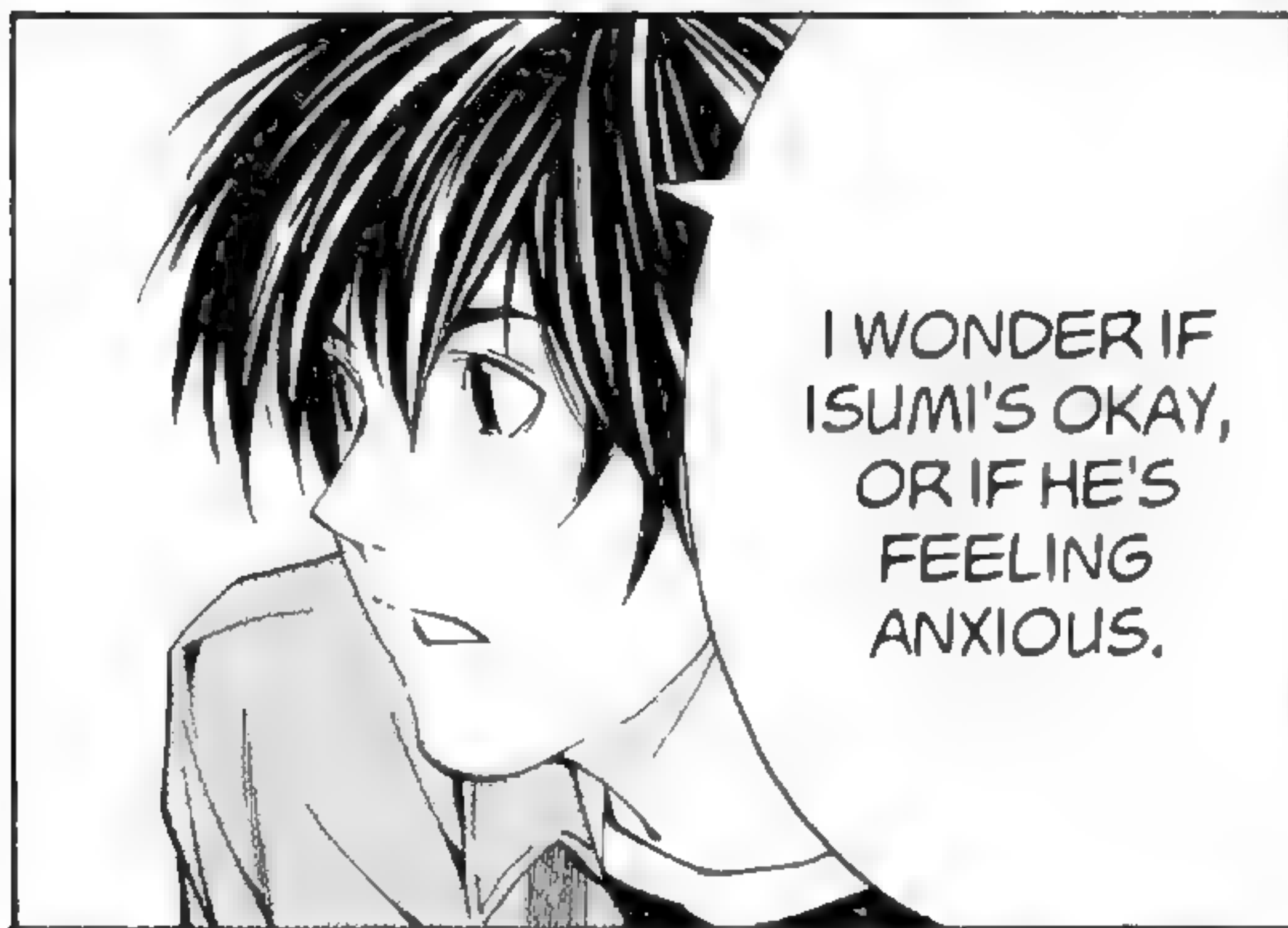




ISUMI MADE  
HIS FIRST  
MOVE!  
IT'S  
STARTING!



THAT  
WOULD BE  
PRETTY  
COOL.



I WONDER IF  
ISUMI'S OKAY,  
OR IF HE'S  
FEELING  
ANXIOUS.



...BUT THAT  
LOOKED  
LIKE A  
PRETTY  
CONFIDENT  
FIRST  
MOVE.

HE'S  
PLAYING  
KUWABARA  
SENSEI...

K  
L  
A  
K



K  
S  
H

K  
S  
H



REMEM-  
BER  
SHINDO'S  
GAME  
LAST  
YEAR?

HE TOOK  
20 MINUTES  
TO PUT HIS  
FIRST  
STONE  
DOWN.





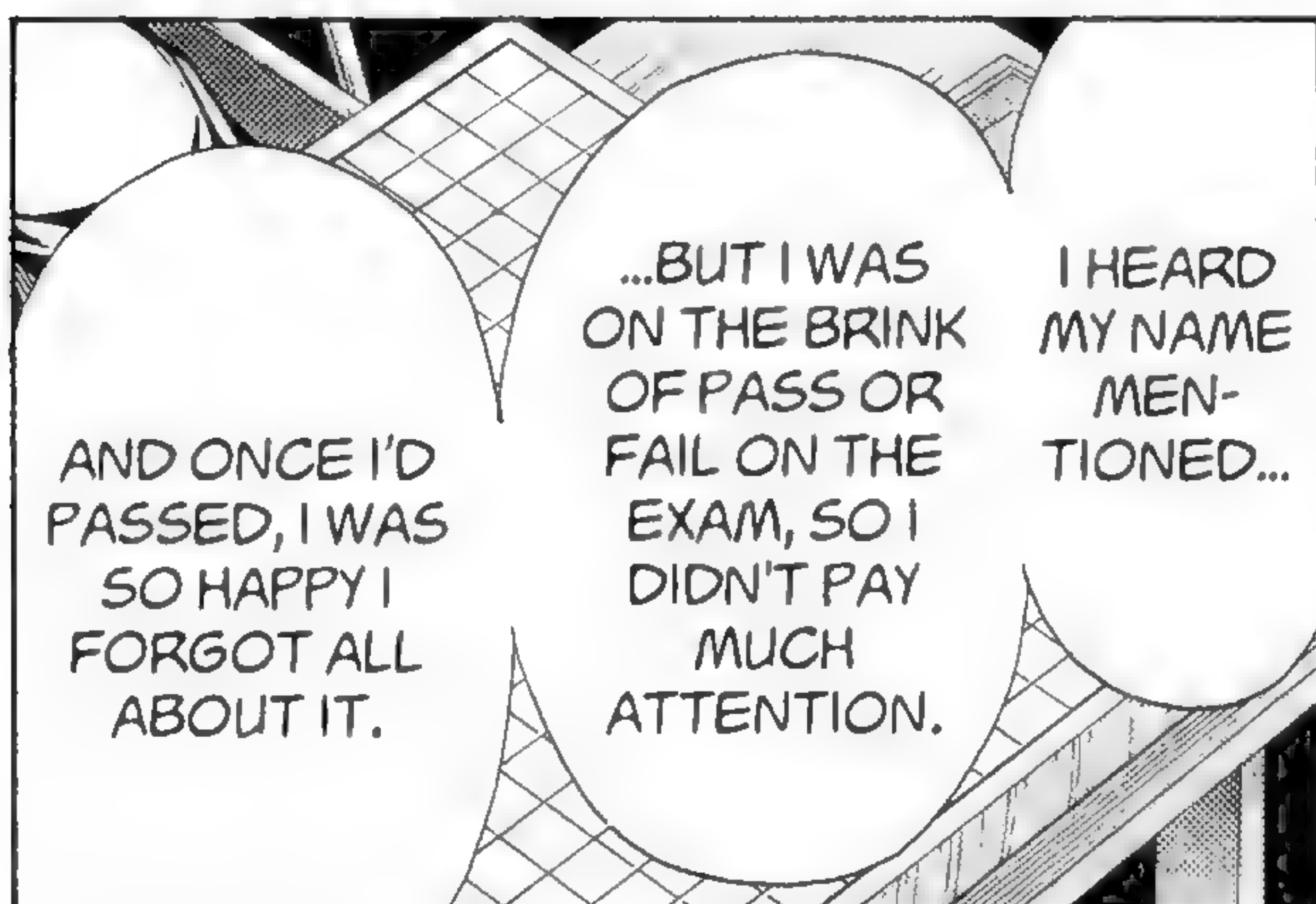




IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE...



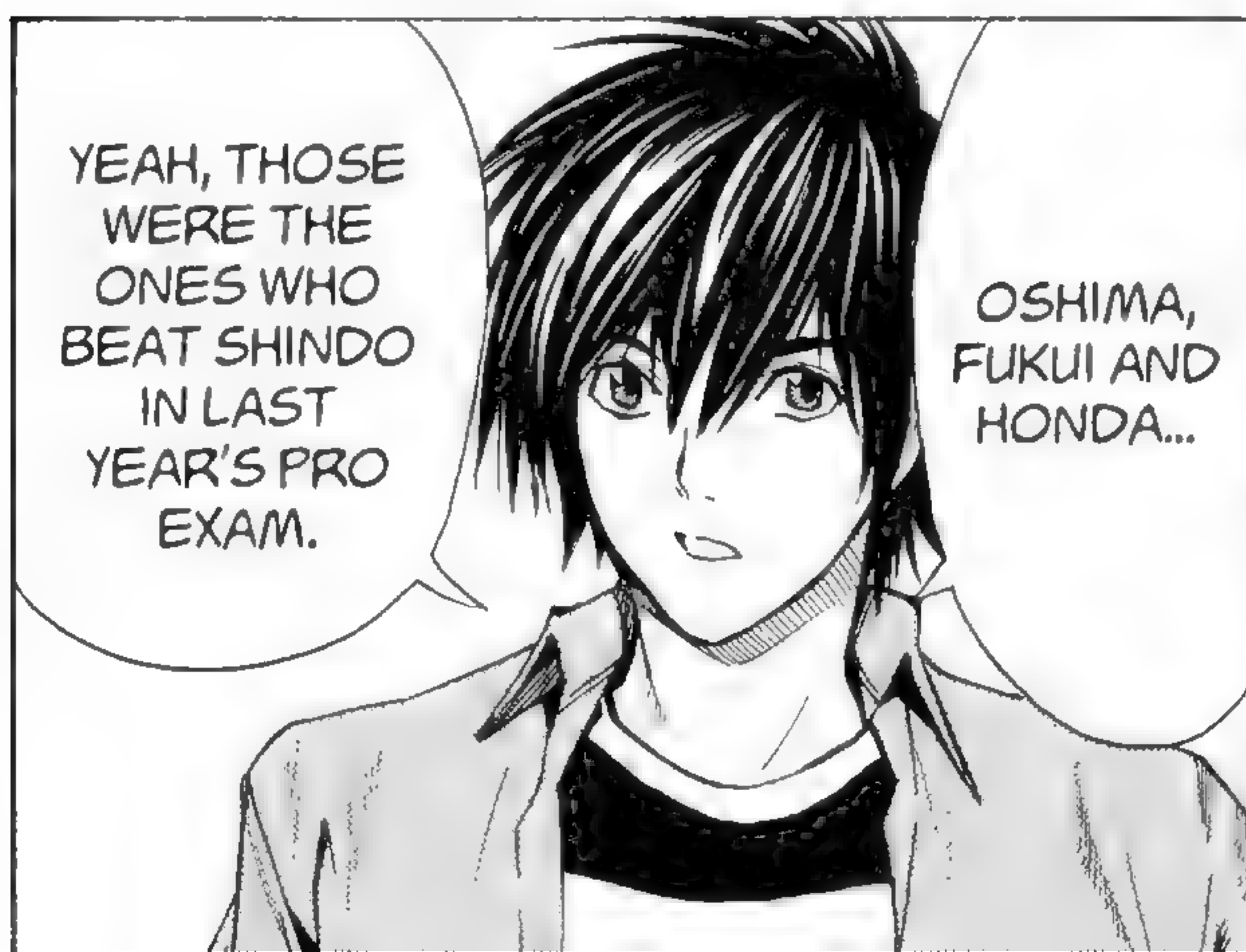
THOSE WERE THE GUYS HE LOST TO LAST YEAR...



AND ONCE I'D PASSED, I WAS SO HAPPY I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT.

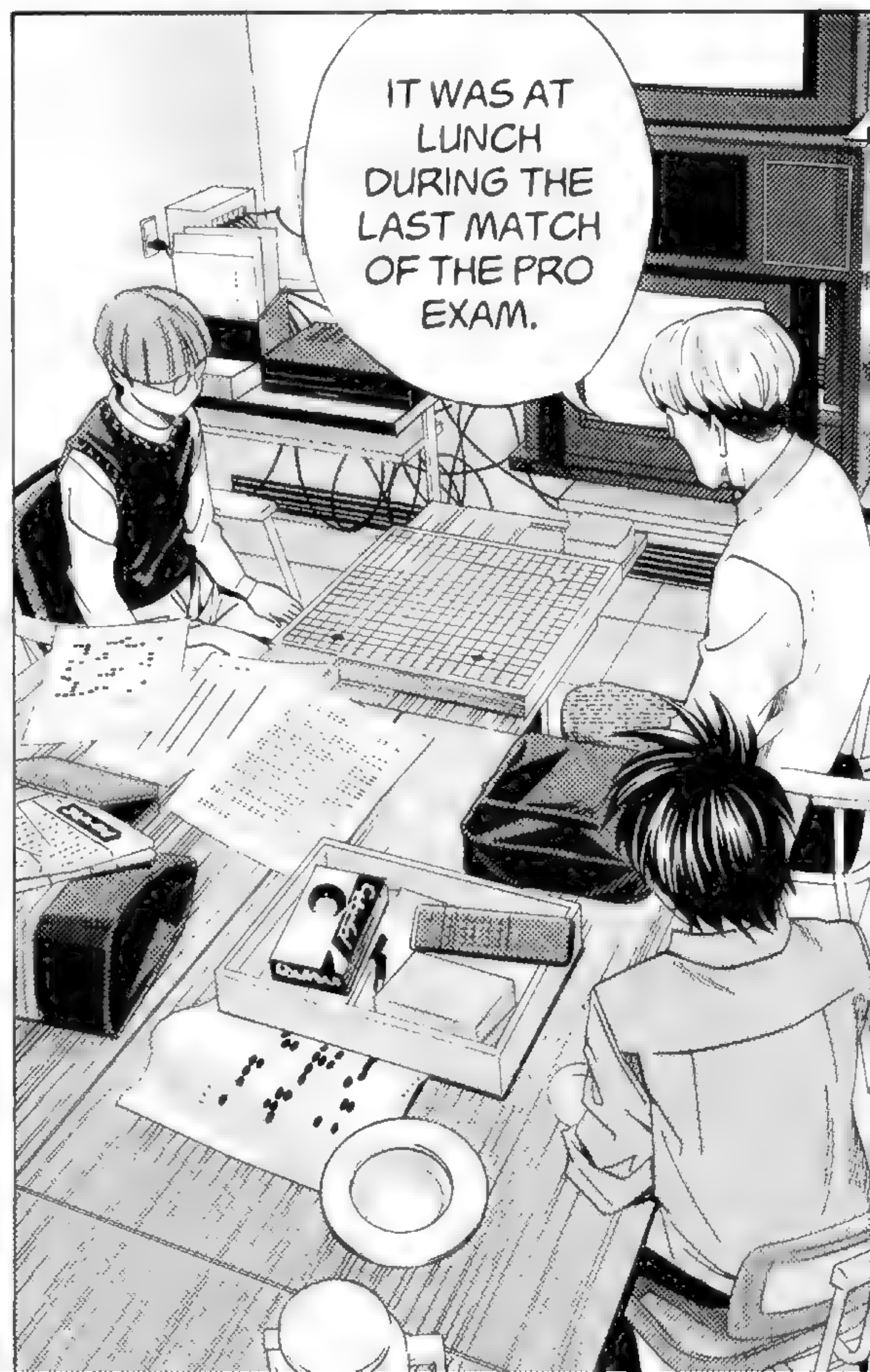
...BUT I WAS ON THE BRINK OF PASS OR FAIL ON THE EXAM, SO I DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION.

I HEARD MY NAME MENTIONED...



YEAH, THOSE WERE THE ONES WHO BEAT SHINDO IN LAST YEAR'S PRO EXAM.

OSHIMA, FUKUI AND HONDA...



IT WAS AT LUNCH DURING THE LAST MATCH OF THE PRO EXAM.





MAYBE THAT  
OTHER THING  
WAS ABOUT  
SHINDO TOO!

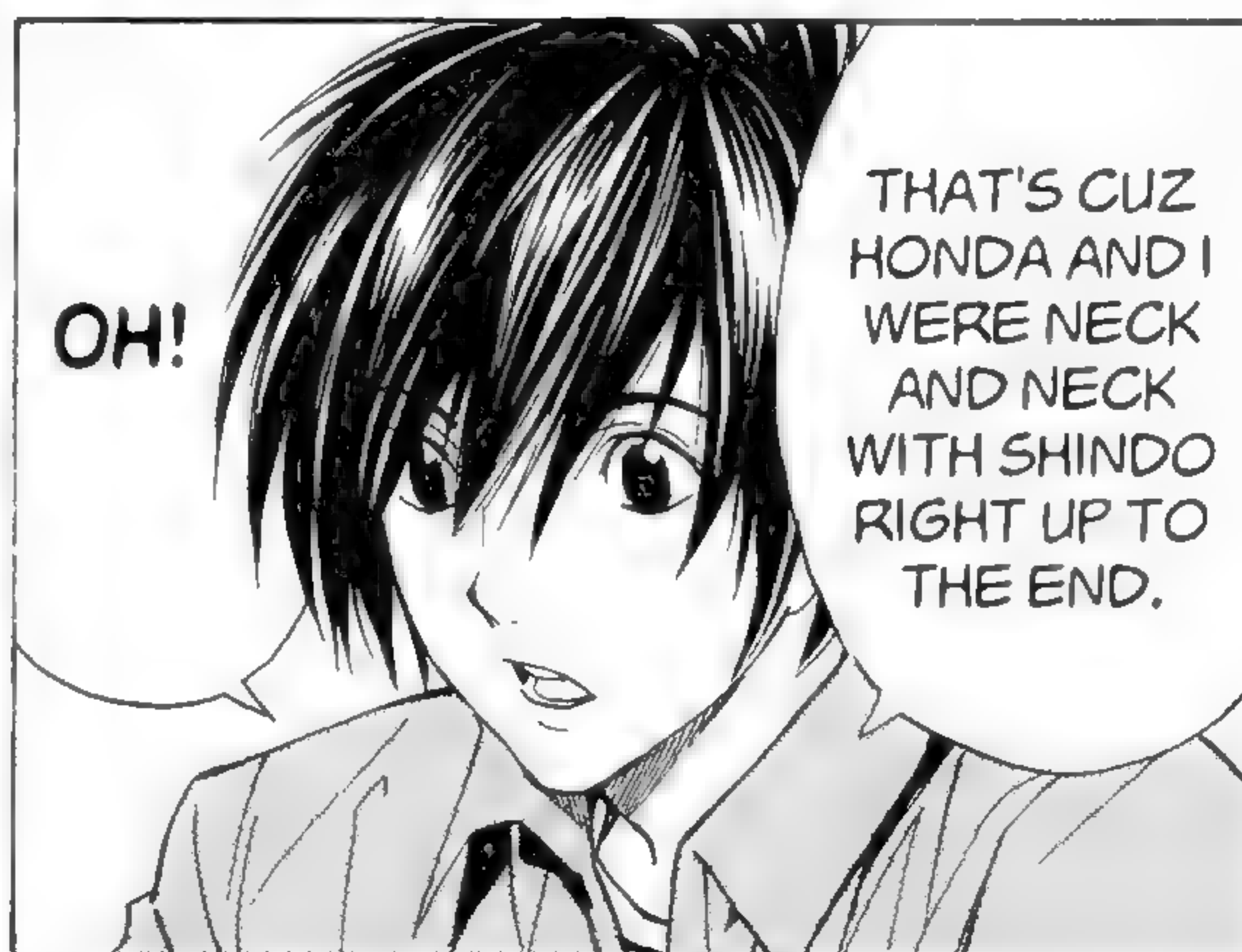
HUH?  
WHAT  
OTHER  
THING?

SHINDO,  
SHINDO,  
SHINDO...  
GEEZ...



GOOD  
MEMORY,  
WAYA.

K  
C  
H  
K



OH!

THAT'S CUZ  
HONDA AND I  
WERE NECK  
AND NECK  
WITH SHINDO  
RIGHT UP TO  
THE END.



...BUT  
ACCORDING  
TO THE  
RUMOR...

OLD NEWS,  
I KNOW...

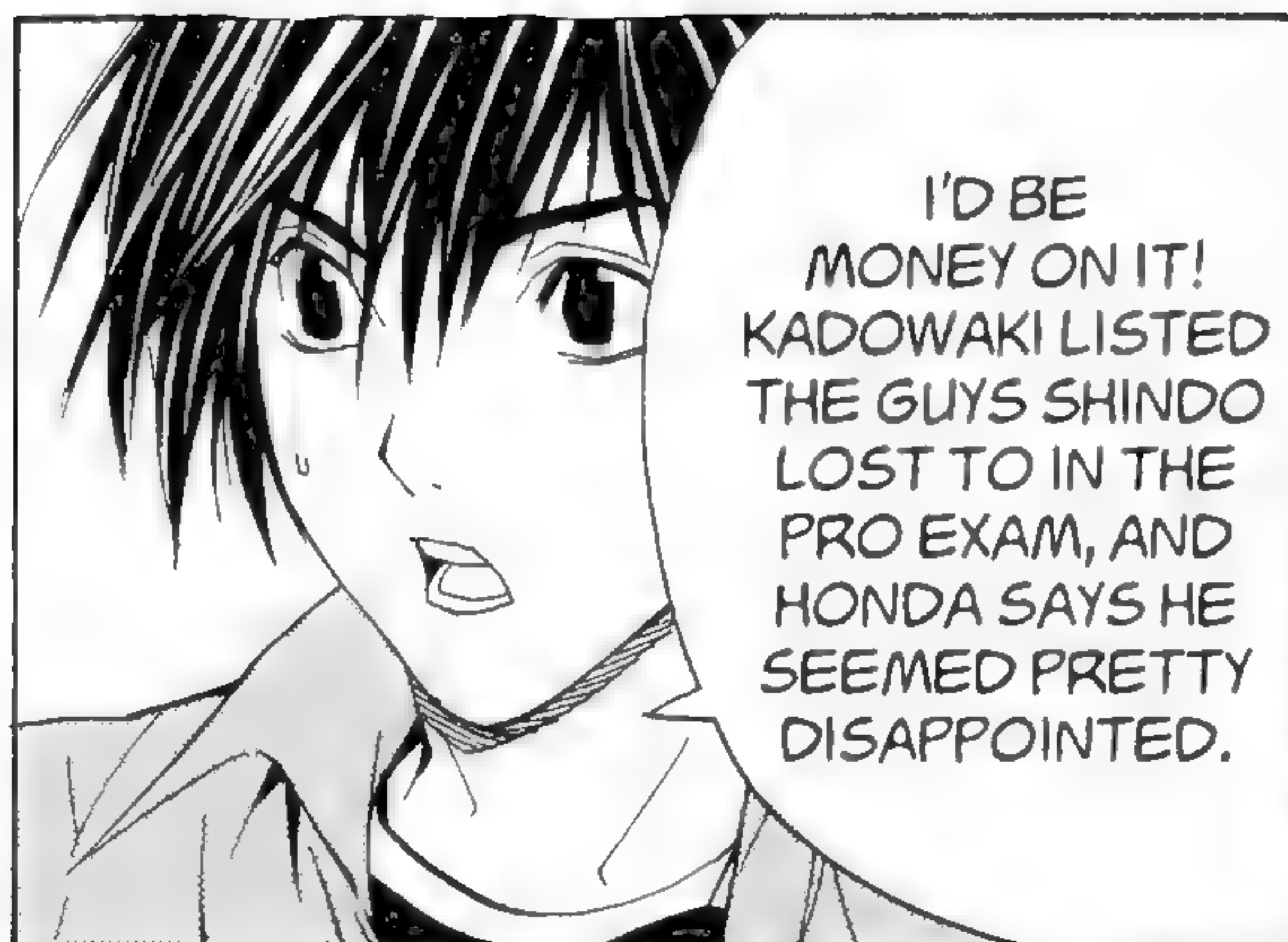
THERE WAS THIS  
ONLINE RUMOR  
THAT KADOWAKI  
PUT OFF TAKING  
THE PRO EXAM  
FOR A YEAR.



HE WAS  
EMBARRASSED  
AND DECIDED  
HE NEEDED A  
LOT MORE  
STUDY AND  
TRAINING.

...THE  
REASON WAS  
BECAUSE  
HE'D LOST TO  
SOME KID.





I'D BE  
MONEY ON IT!  
KADOWAKI LISTED  
THE GUYS SHINDO  
LOST TO IN THE  
PRO EXAM, AND  
HONDA SAYS HE  
SEEMED PRETTY  
DISAPPOINTED.



SO MAYBE  
THAT KID  
WAS  
SHINDO?

AT THE TIME  
I COULDN'T THINK  
OF ANY KID WHO  
COULD PUT ANYONE  
OFF LIKE THAT.  
I JUST FIGURED  
KADOWAKI WASN'T  
VERY GOOD.



IN OTHER  
WORDS, HE  
COULDN'T  
BELIEVE  
SHINDO LOST  
TO THE LIKES  
OF THOSE  
THREE.



NEITHER OF  
THEM IS HERE.  
THAT MUST  
MEAN SOME-  
THING.

WHAT'S THE  
POINT OF  
OBSESSING  
ABOUT  
SHINDO?



OSHIMA AND  
FUKUI, FINE!  
BUT ARE YOU  
GONNA LUMP  
ME IN THERE?  
ME?

EXACTLY!



DON'T BE  
SILLY!  
THE SURE  
THING IS  
ME!

SO  
SHINDO'S  
SURE TO  
MAKE THE  
HOKUTO  
CUP  
TEAM?

FORGET  
SHINDO!

CLICK









...WAS IT  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE A KID  
AND PLAYED  
UNEVENLY?

THOSE  
THREE  
GAMES  
YOU  
LOST...



SO  
WHAT'S  
THE  
STORY?



SERIOUSLY,  
IT'S THE ONLY  
EXPLANATION I  
CAN THINK OF.



PRETTY  
FUNNY,  
HUH?

BECAUSE,  
SERIOUSLY  
AGAIN, YOU SENT  
ME OFF WITH MY  
TAIL BETWEEN  
MY LEGS.  
FOR A WHOLE  
YEAR.















# A WORD ABOUT HIKARU NO GO

## ● WOMEN GO PLAYERS ●



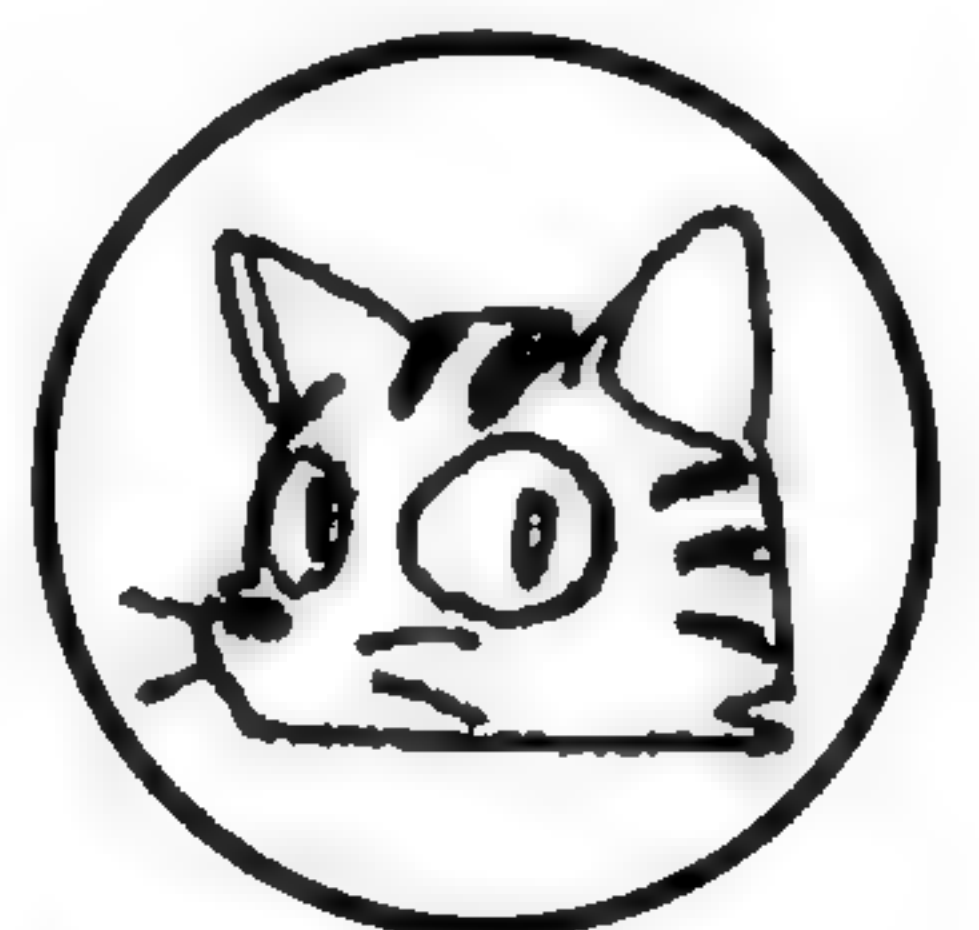
IT'S GENERALLY HELD THAT WOMEN GO PLAYERS ARE NOT AS STRONG AS THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS. BECAUSE OF THAT, IN THE REAL LIFE GO WORLD THERE ARE PRO EXAMS AND TOURNAMENTS JUST FOR WOMEN.

BUT—

IN 2000, A WOMAN IN KOREA TOOK THE TITLE IN A GENERAL GO TOURNAMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME. AND IN 2002 A KOREAN WOMAN BARELY 18 YEARS OLD BEAT A JAPANESE MASTER AT AN INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT.

### THE RISE OF WOMEN

IT'S ONE OF THE EXCITING THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN THE WORLD OF GO.







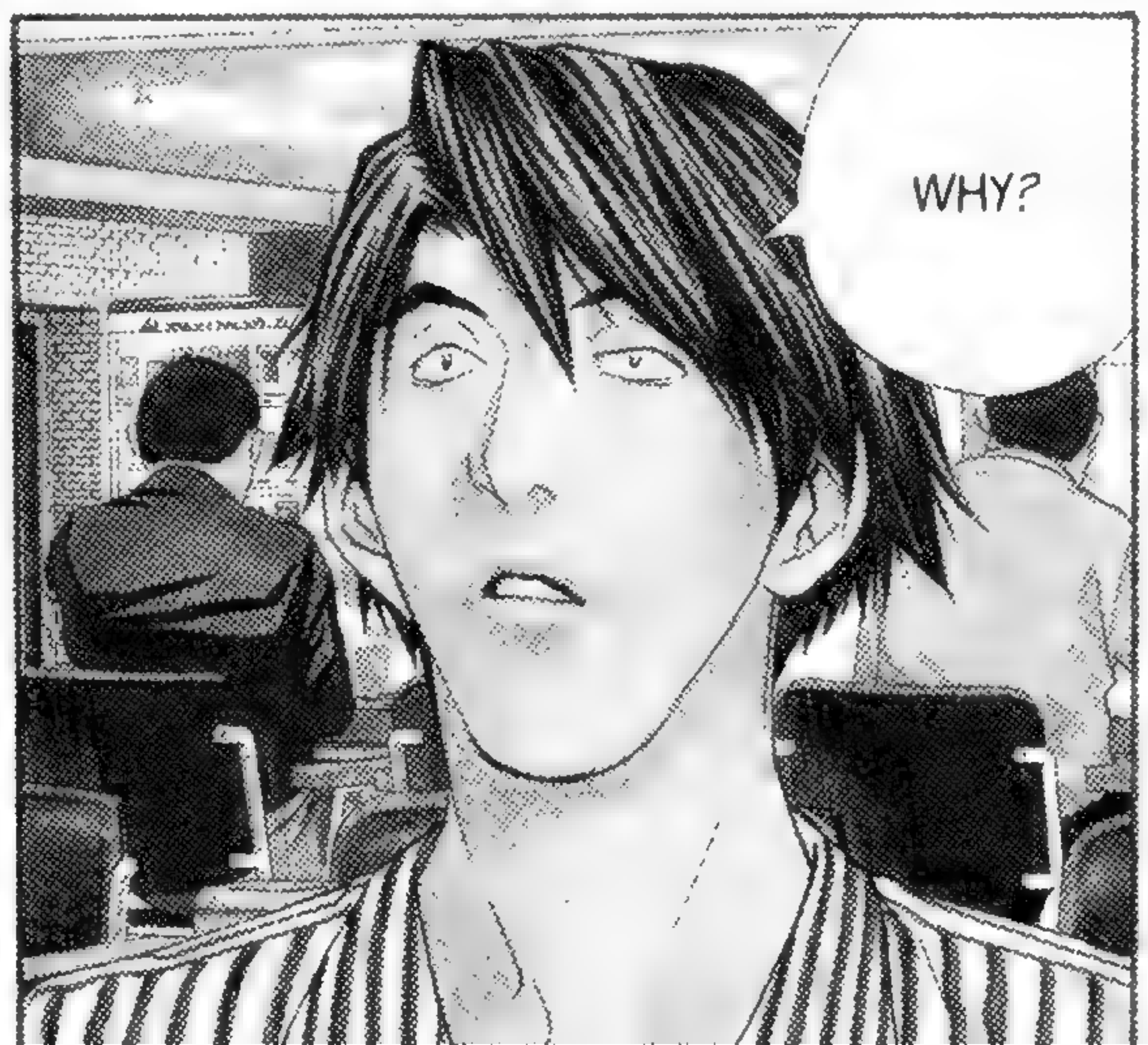
## Game 156 "Hikaru vs. Kadowaki"













# HIKARU - no GO —→ !!



Hikaru

Akira

Sai

Akari





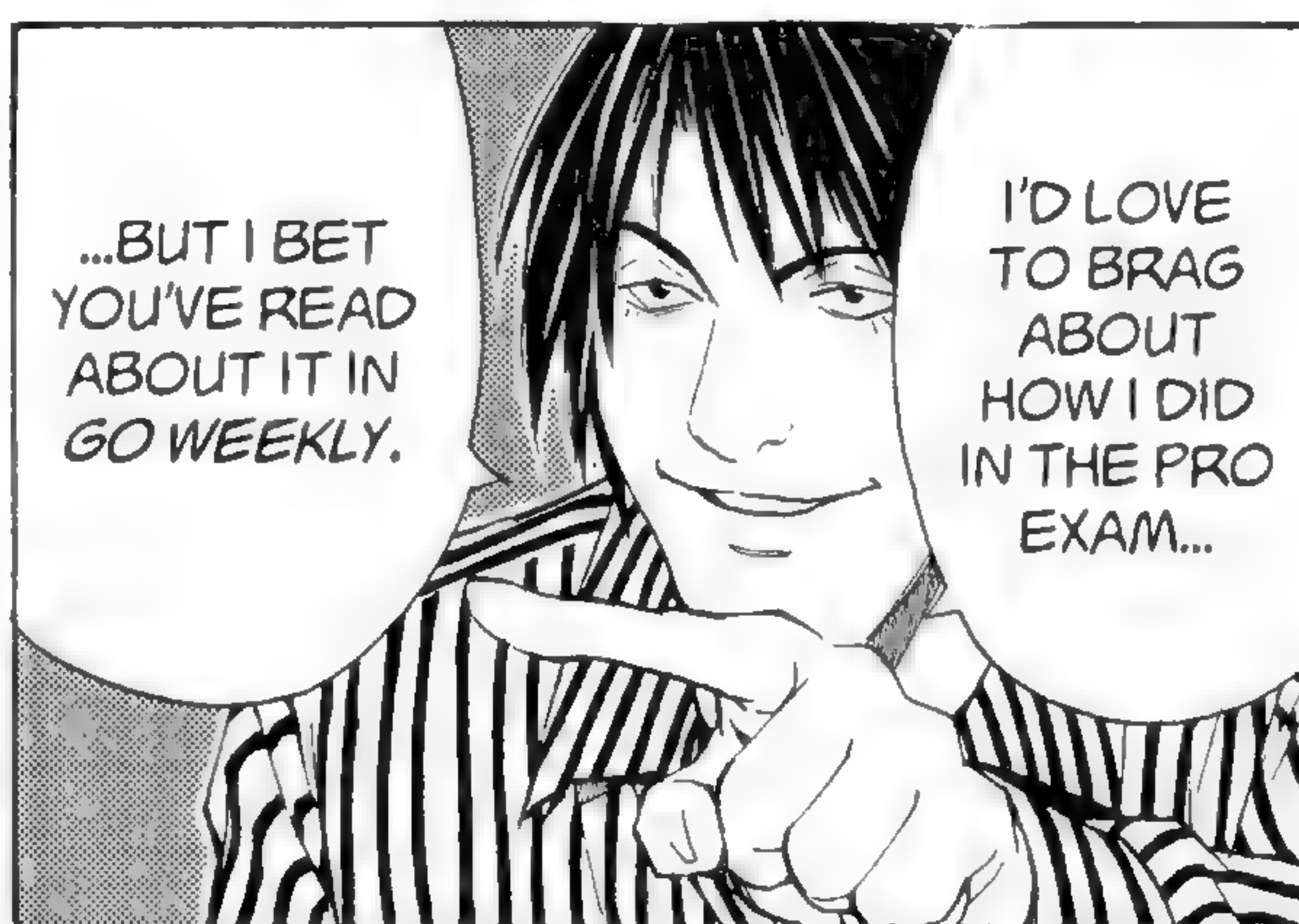
... READY TO  
MEASURE EACH  
OTHER NOW  
AGAINST WHAT  
WE WERE THEN!

I KNOW.  
AND HERE WE  
ARE, ACROSS  
A BOARD...



IT WAS  
YOUR ONLY  
LOSS.

ISUMI!  
WELL, YES,  
I DID LOSE  
TO HIM,  
BUT...



...BUT I BET  
YOU'VE READ  
ABOUT IT IN  
GO WEEKLY.

I'D LOVE  
TO BRAG  
ABOUT  
HOW I DID  
IN THE PRO  
EXAM...



YOU  
LOST TO  
ISUMI.

I  
HAVE.



ONE THING  
I LOOK  
FORWARD TO  
AS A PRO IS  
THE CHANCE  
TO AVENGE  
MYSELF!

DOESN'T  
MEAN HE'S  
BETTER'N  
ME,  
Y'KNOW!

KSHH

...





CLATTER  
KTNK

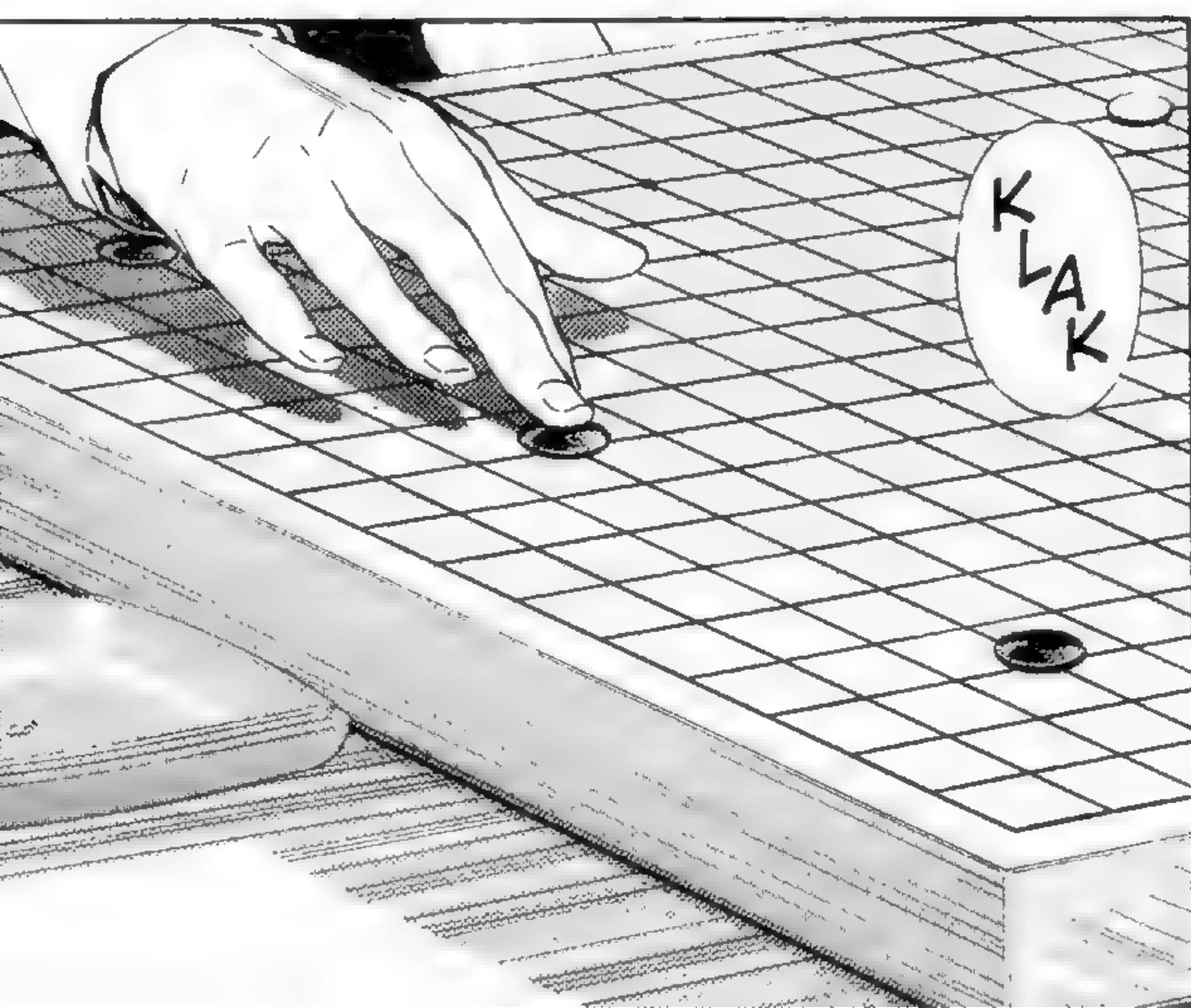
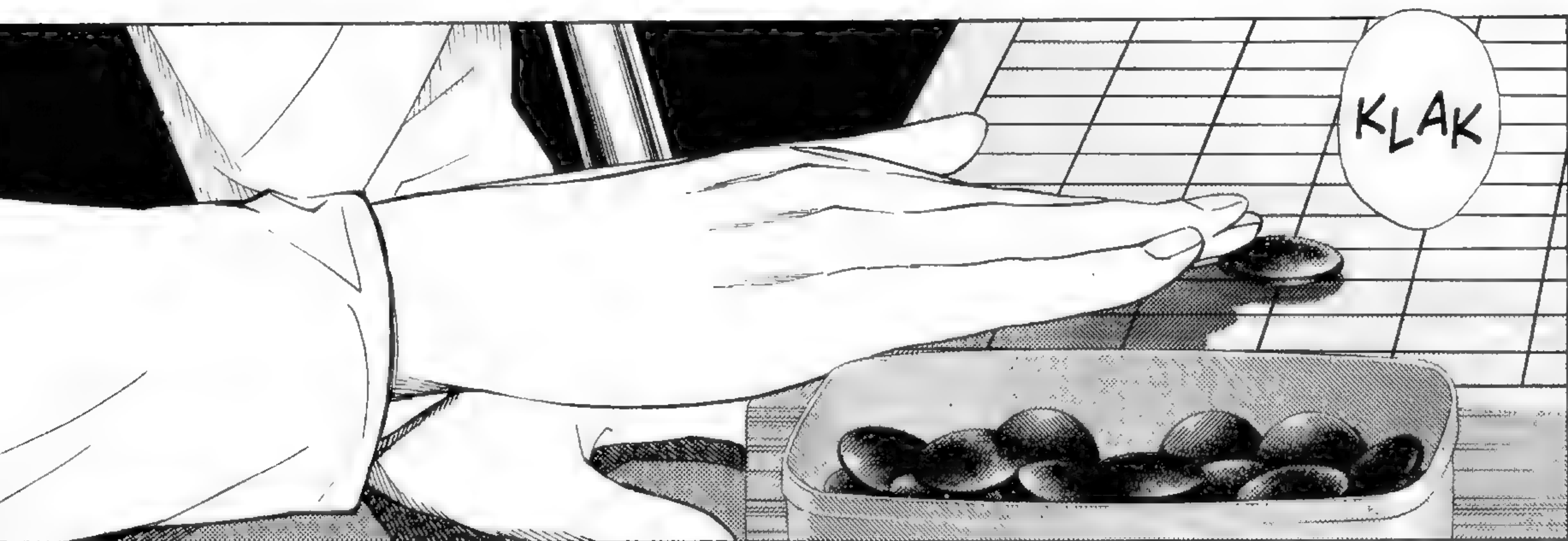
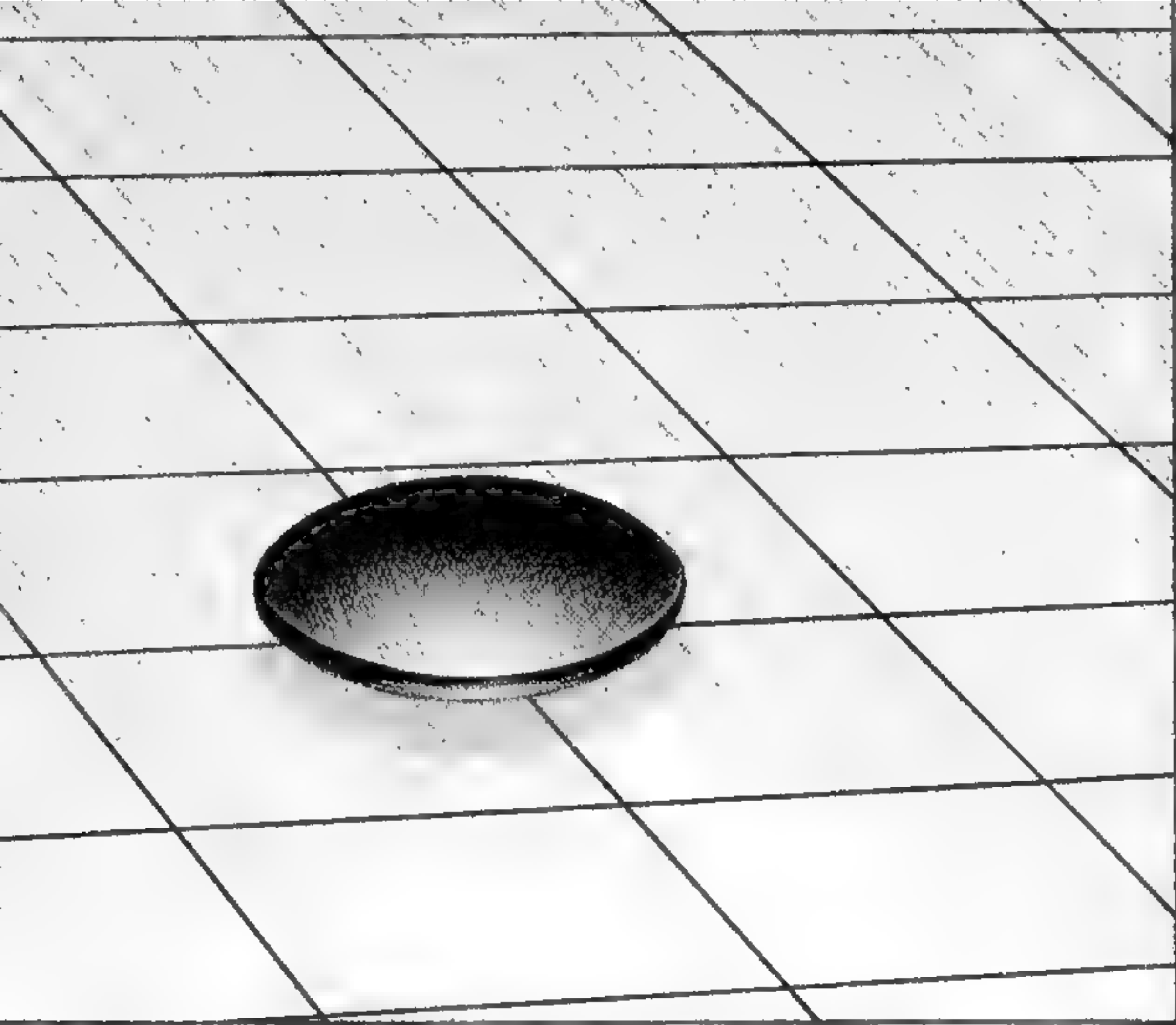


CLATTER

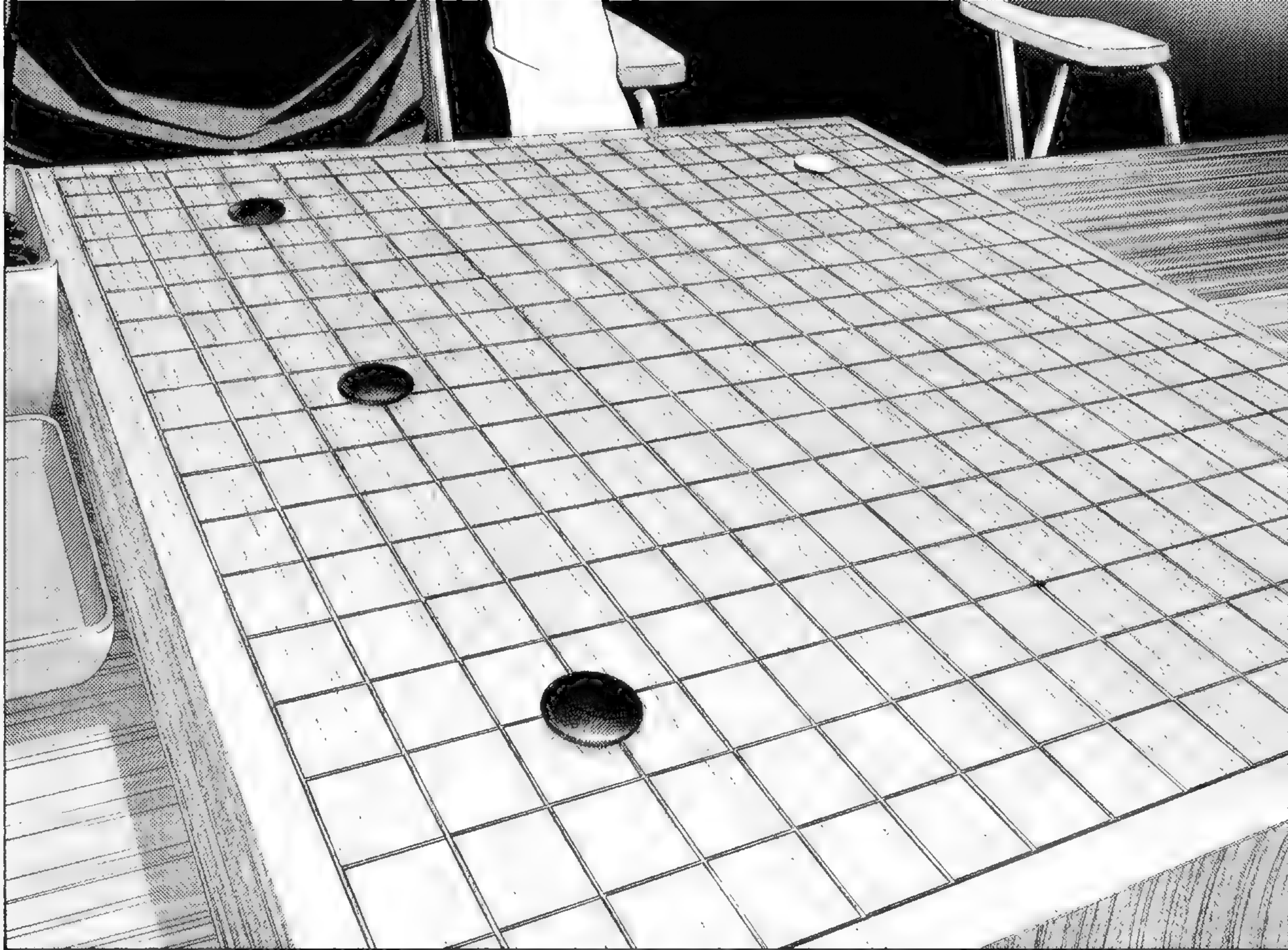


ONEGAI-SHIMASU.









...A YEAR  
AND A HALF  
AGO?

INTERFERE  
EARLY ON,  
JUST LIKE I  
DID...



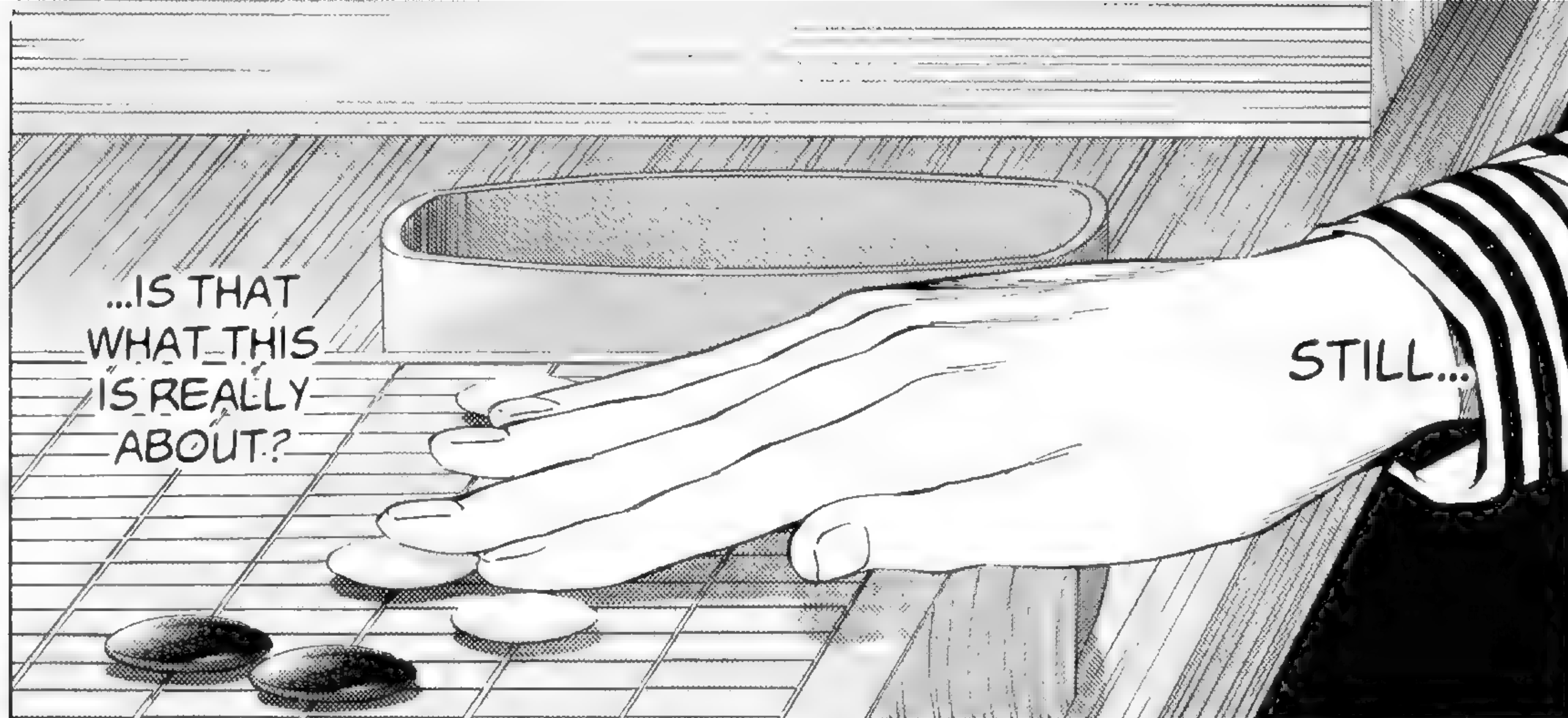
THREE  
STAR  
POINTS IN  
A ROW.  
HMM...

HOW  
SHOULD  
I PLAY  
THIS?



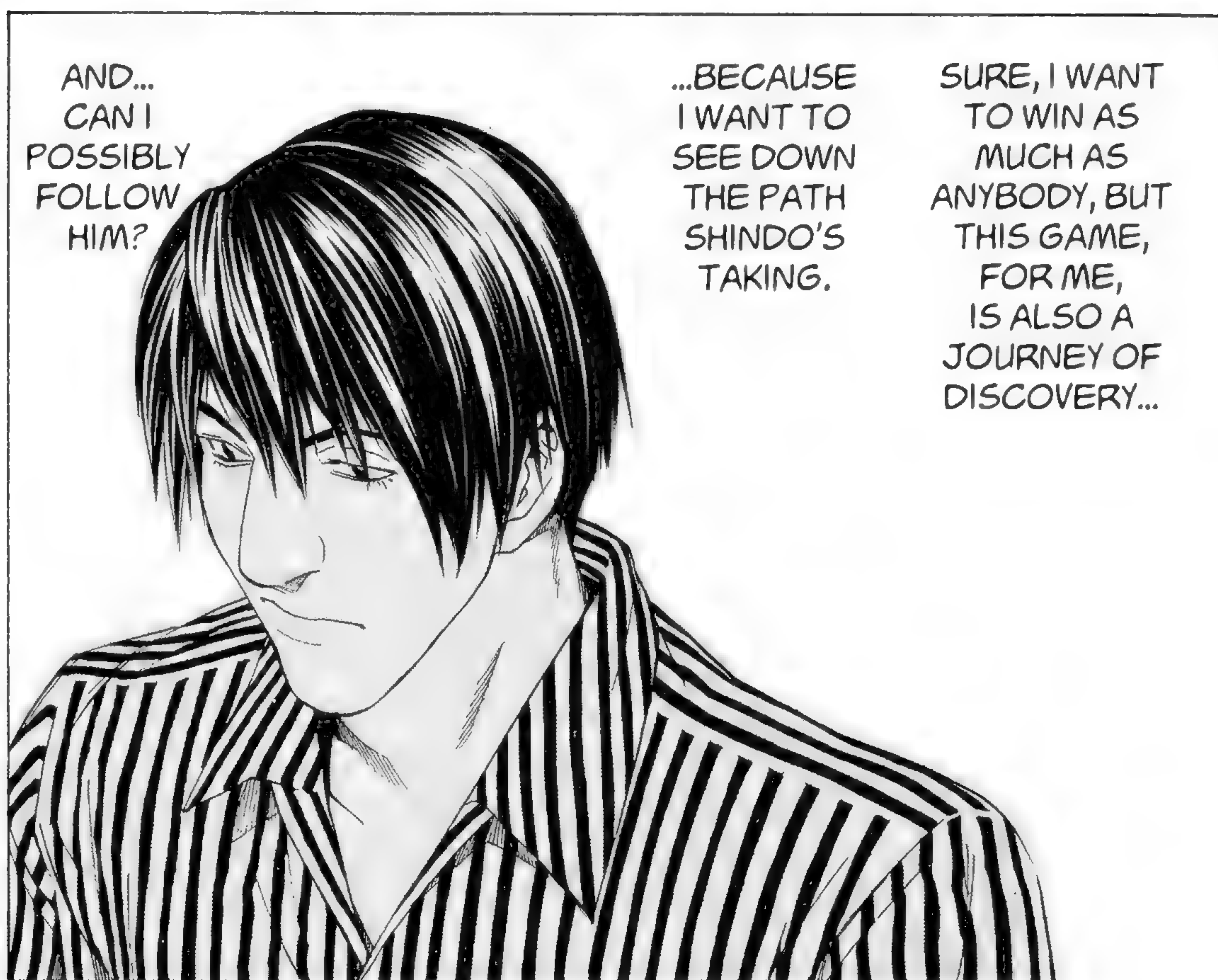
THAT TIME  
HE WAS  
TOYING WITH  
ME, BUT NOW  
I WON'T LET  
THAT  
HAPPEN.





...IS THAT  
WHAT THIS  
IS REALLY  
ABOUT?

STILL...



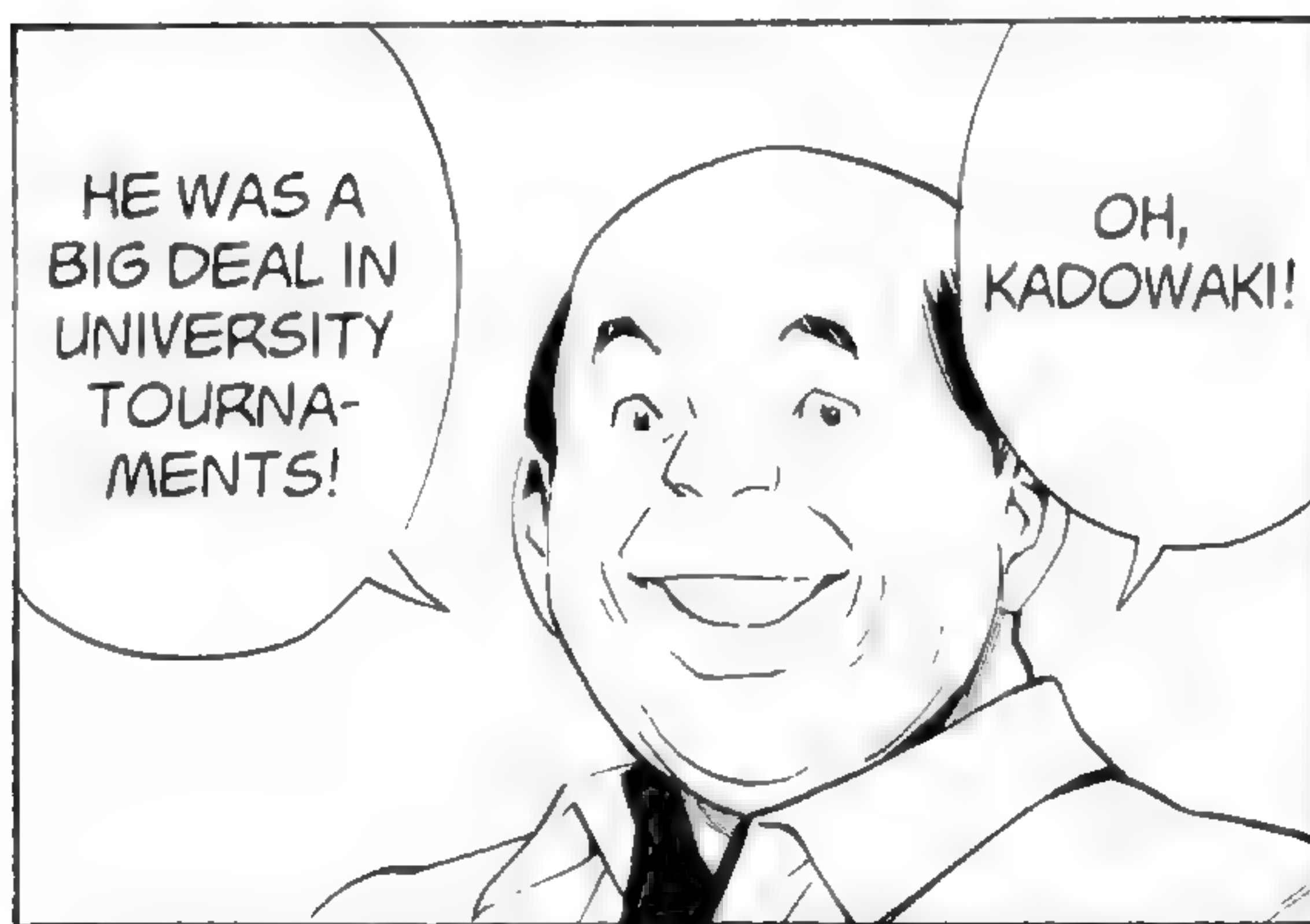
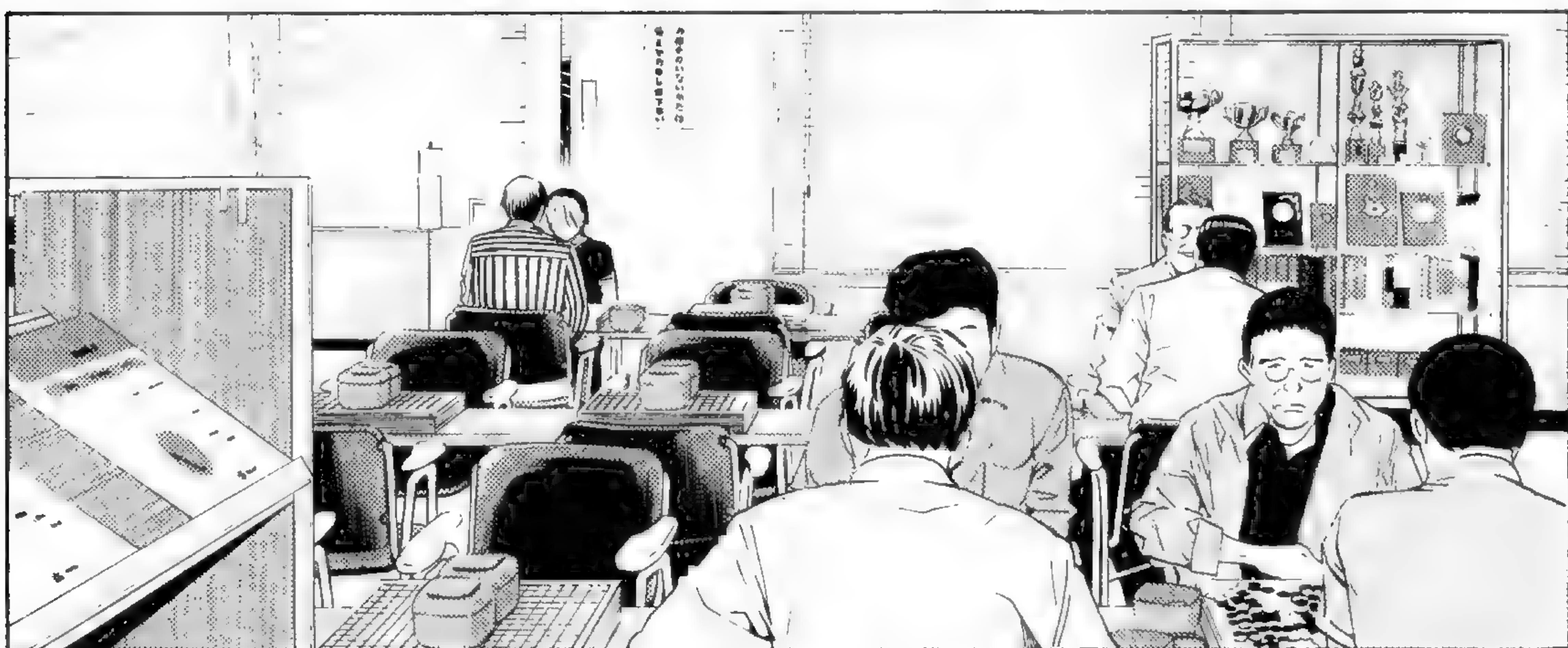
AND...  
CAN I  
POSSIBLY  
FOLLOW  
HIM?

...BECAUSE  
I WANT TO  
SEE DOWN  
THE PATH  
SHINDO'S  
TAKING.

SURE, I WANT  
TO WIN AS  
MUCH AS  
ANYBODY, BUT  
THIS GAME,  
FOR ME,  
IS ALSO A  
JOURNEY OF  
DISCOVERY...



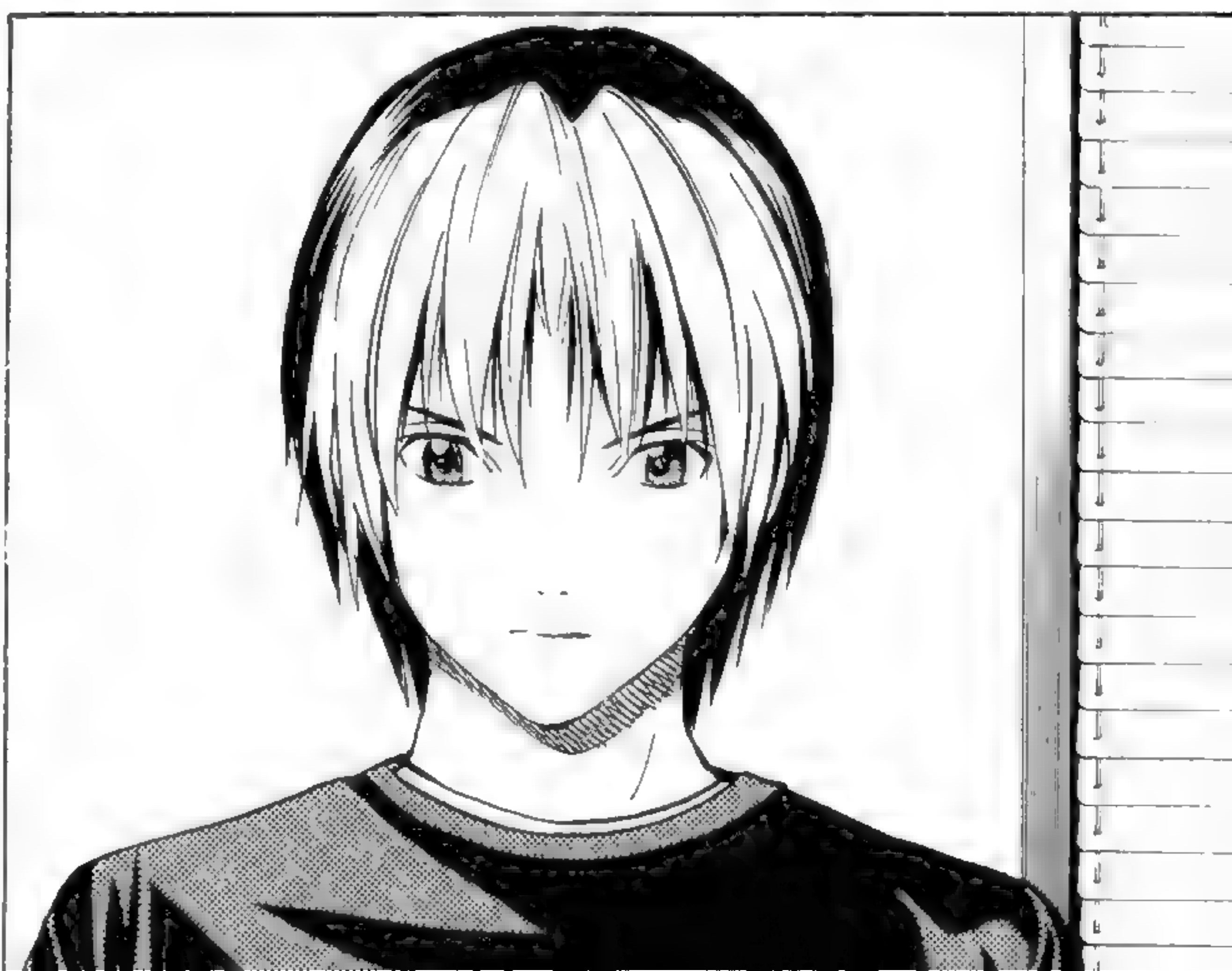
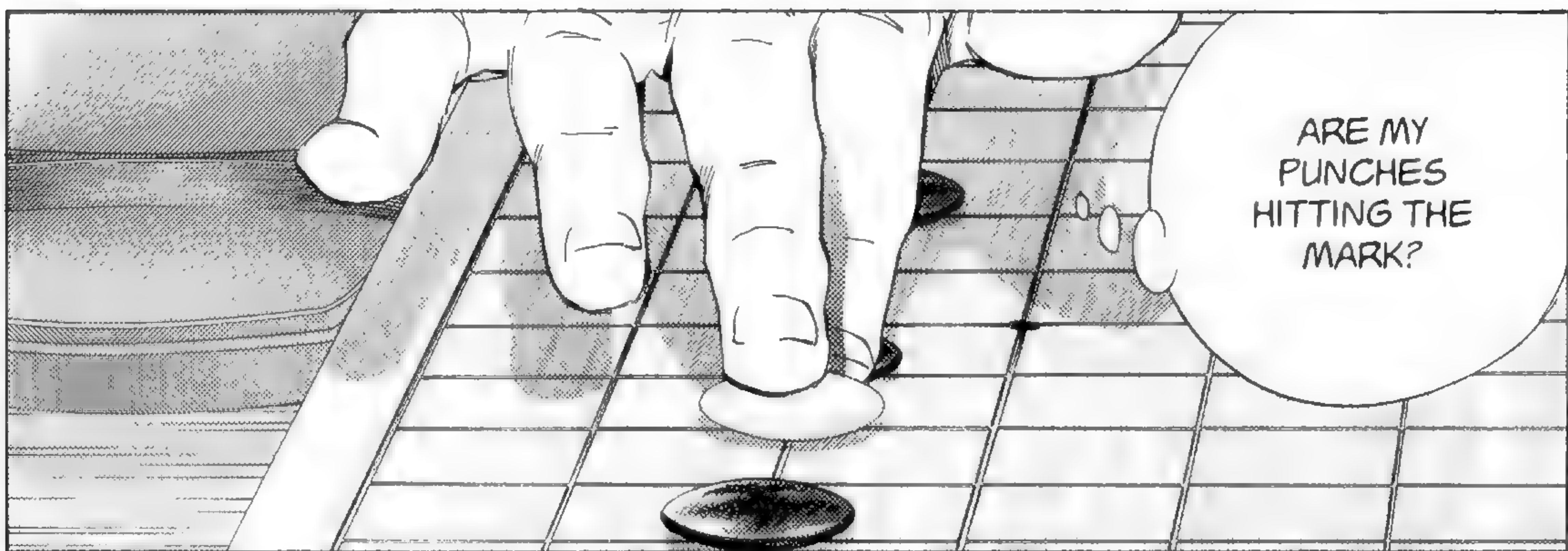
























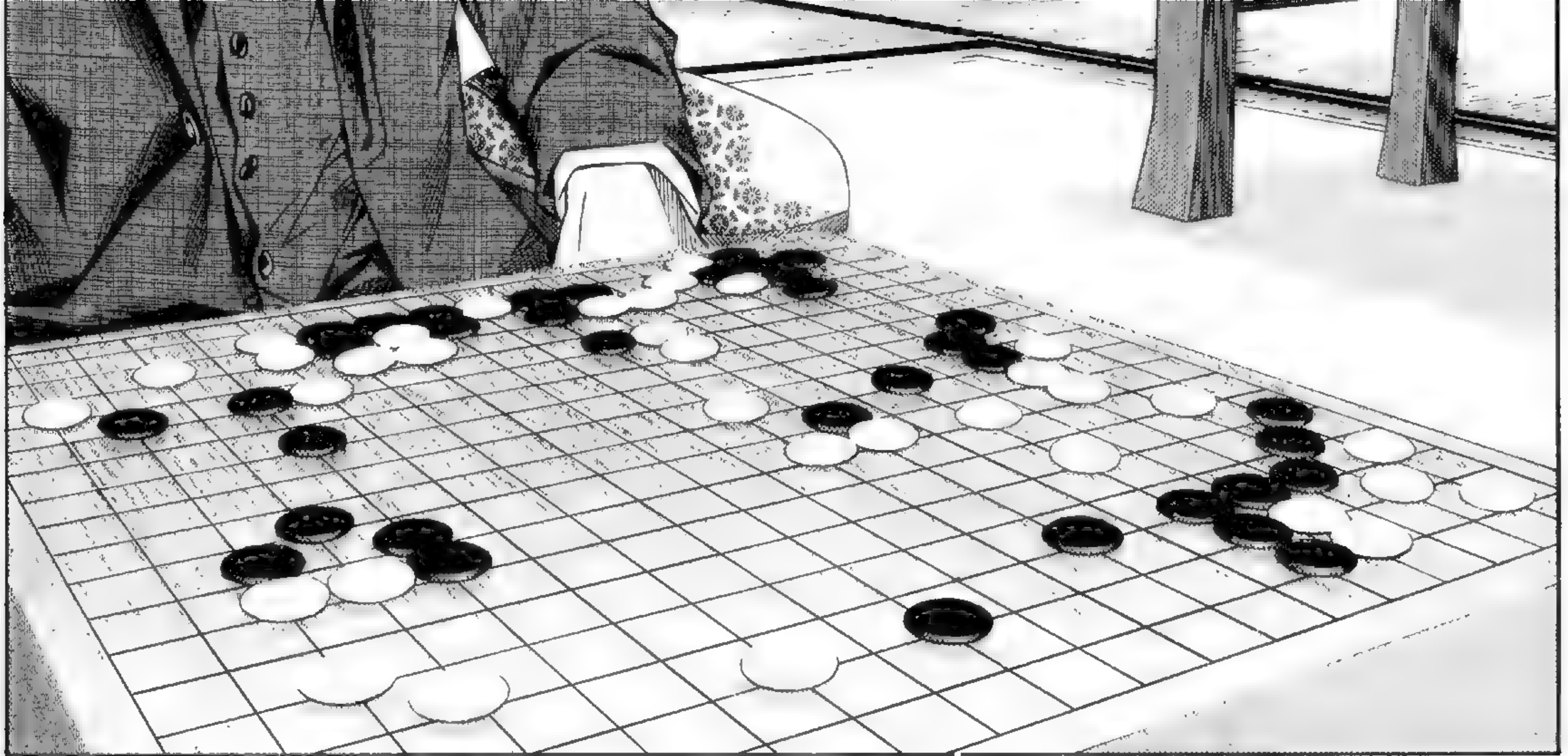
HE'S  
CLAMPED  
MY HANE!



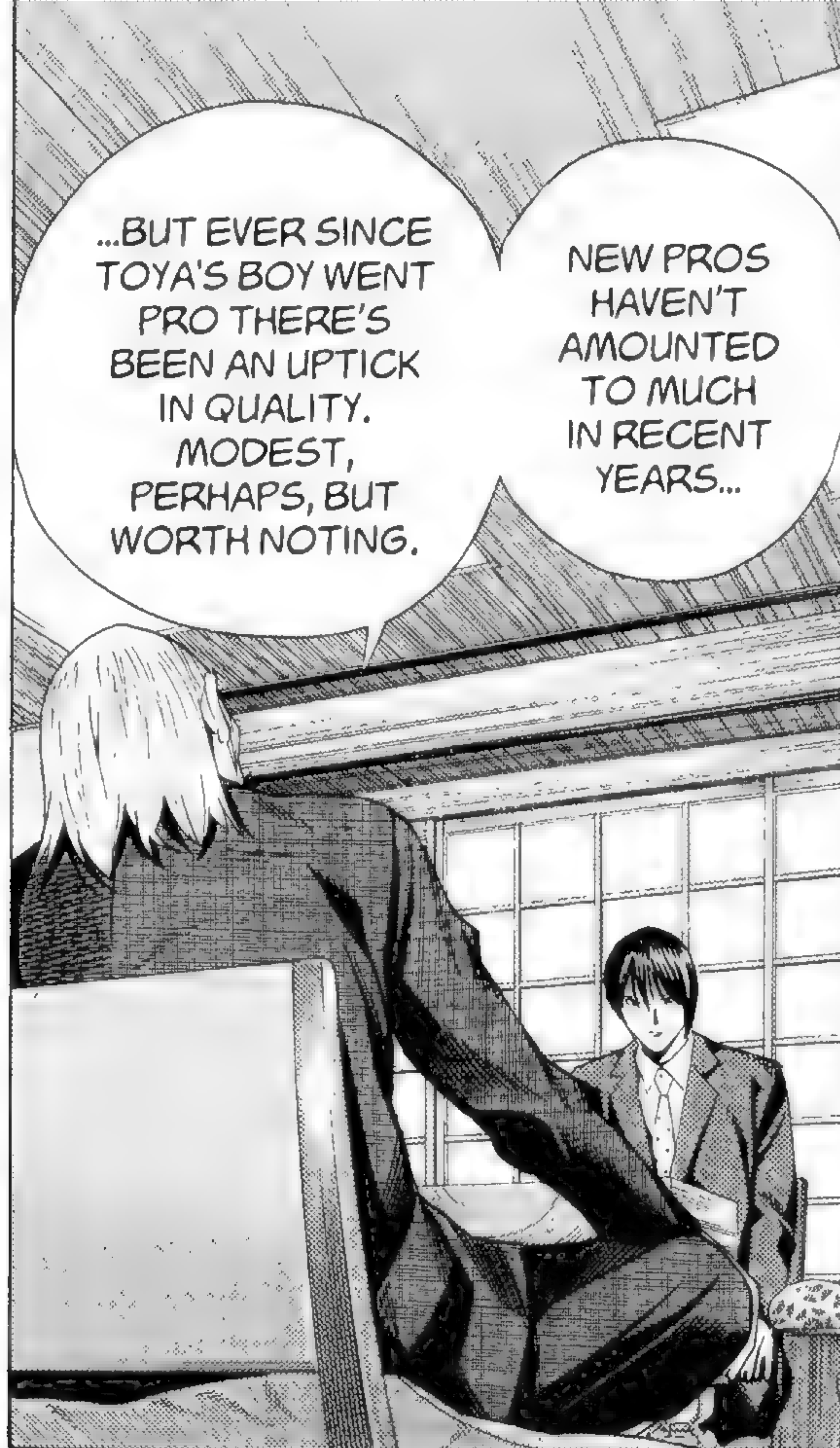












...BUT EVER SINCE  
TOYA'S BOY WENT  
PRO THERE'S  
BEEN AN UPTICK  
IN QUALITY.  
MODEST,  
PERHAPS, BUT  
WORTH NOTING.

NEW PROS  
HAVEN'T  
AMOUNTED  
TO MUCH  
IN RECENT  
YEARS...



ISUMI,  
HUH?

I GUESS  
I'LL HAVE  
TO  
REMEMBER  
IT.



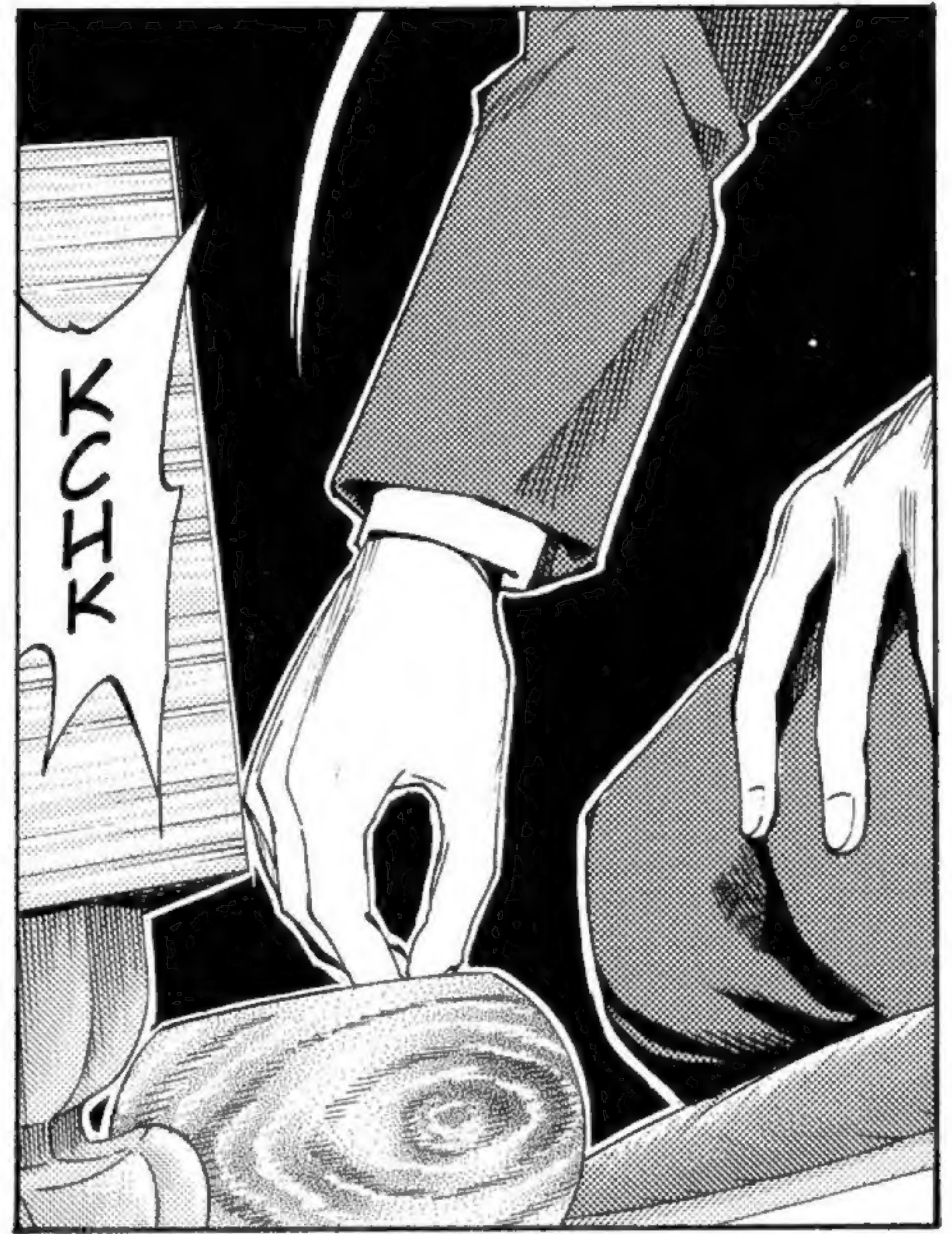
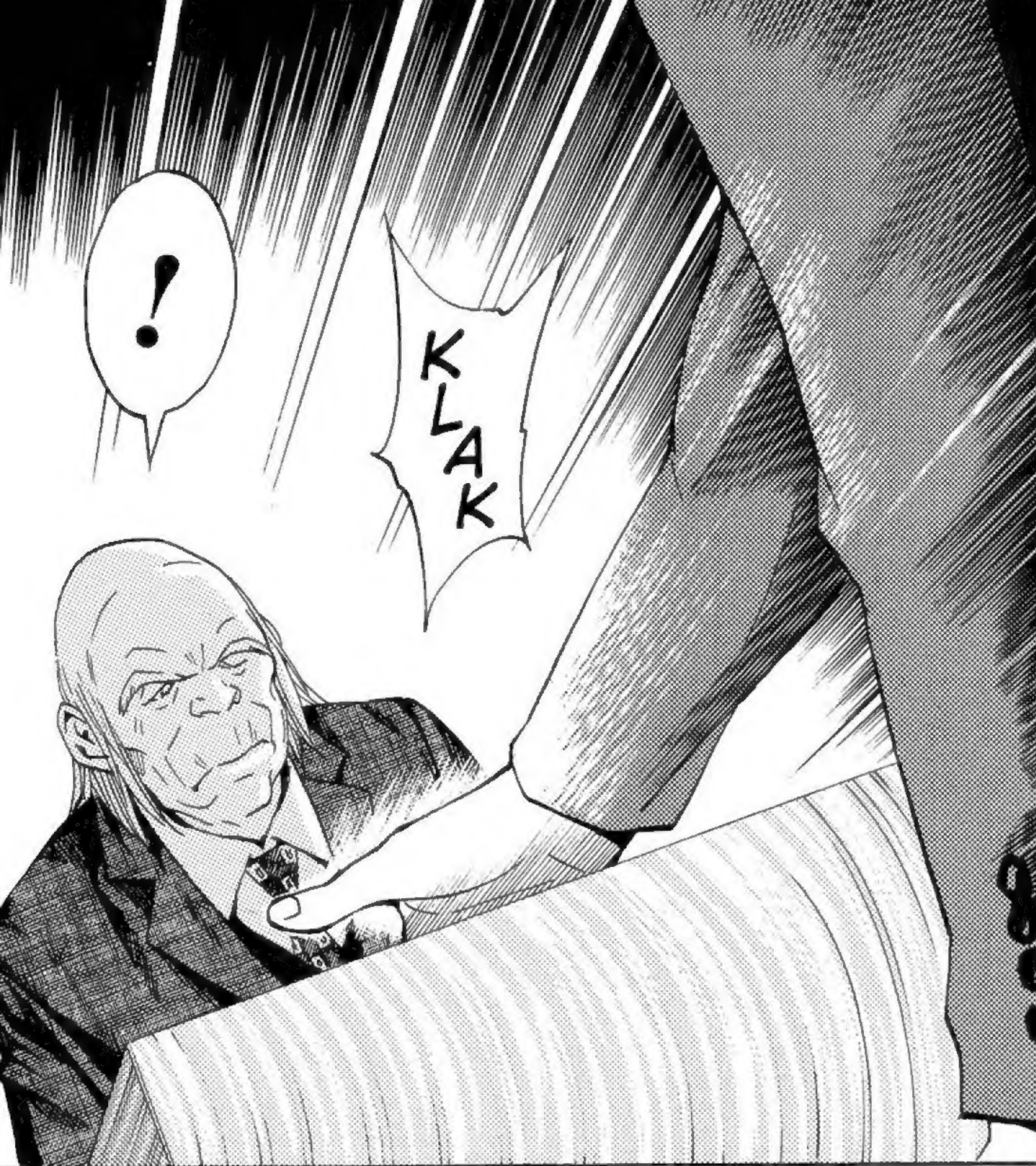
ESPECIALLY  
WITH THAT  
ONE...

...WHOSE TRUE  
ABILITIES HAVE  
YET TO BE  
TESTED.

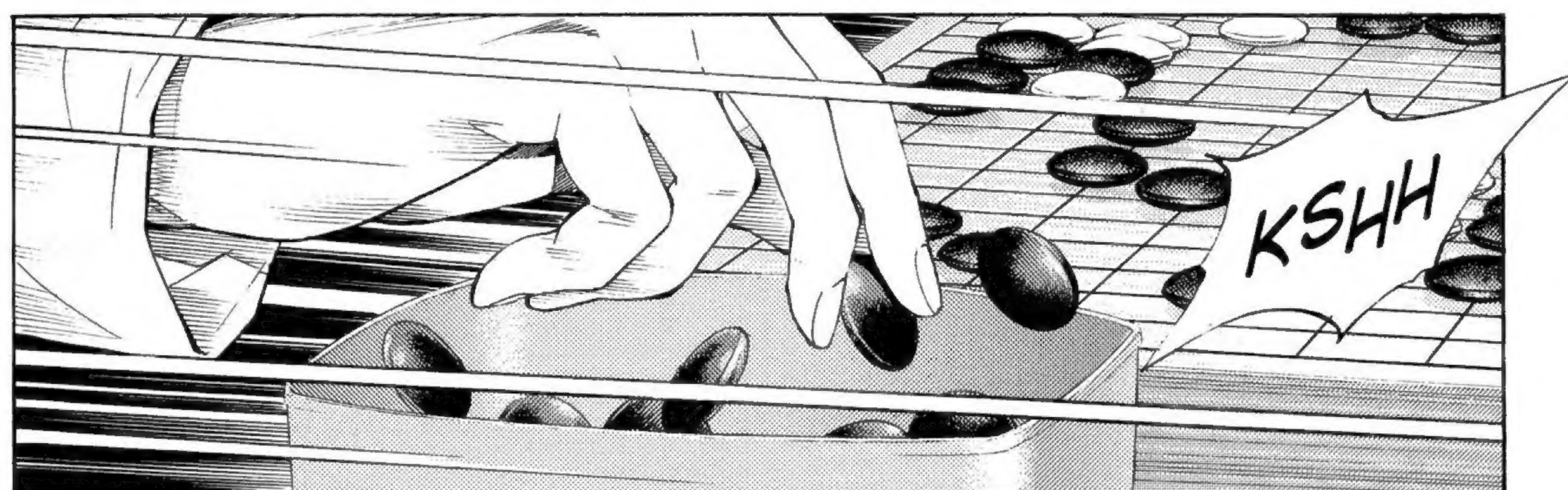
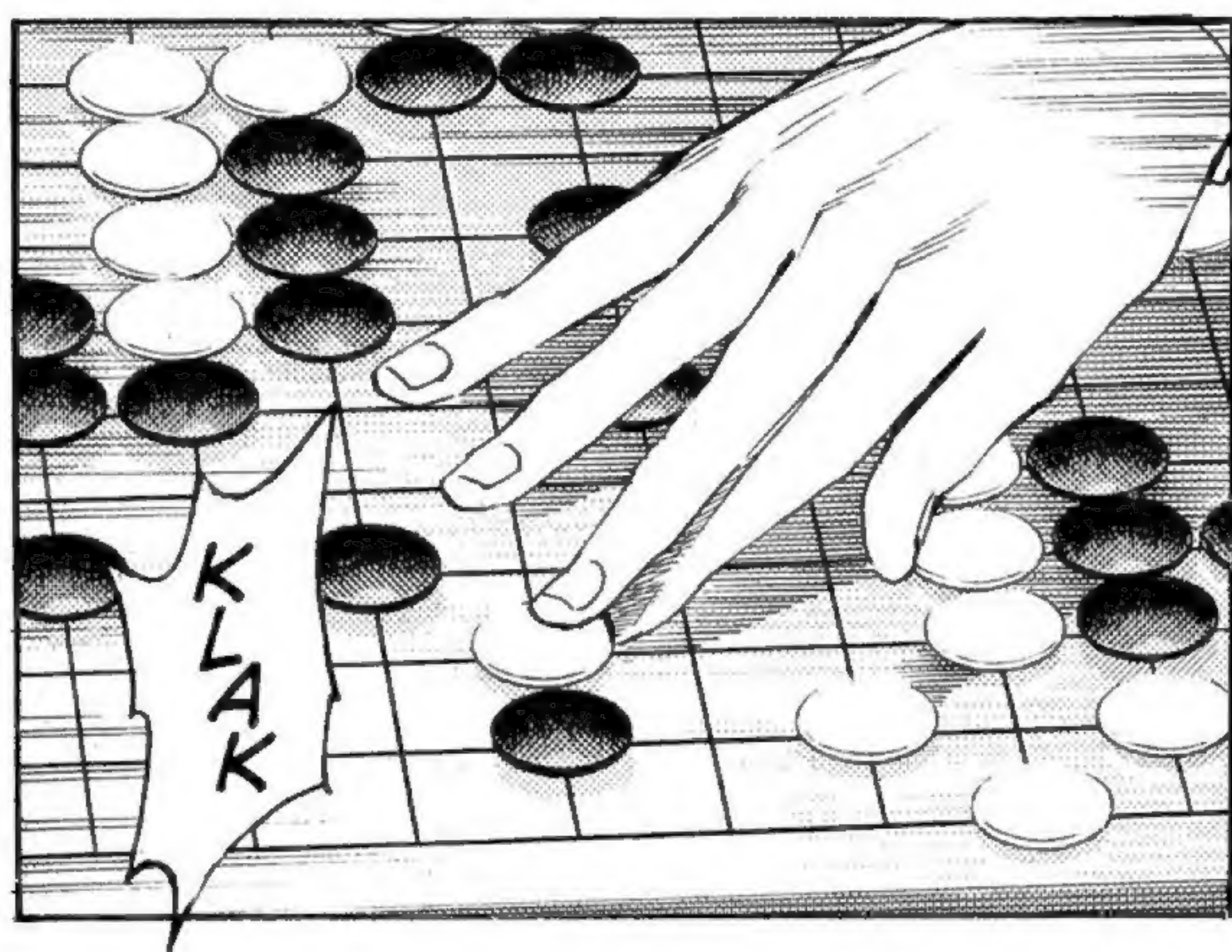
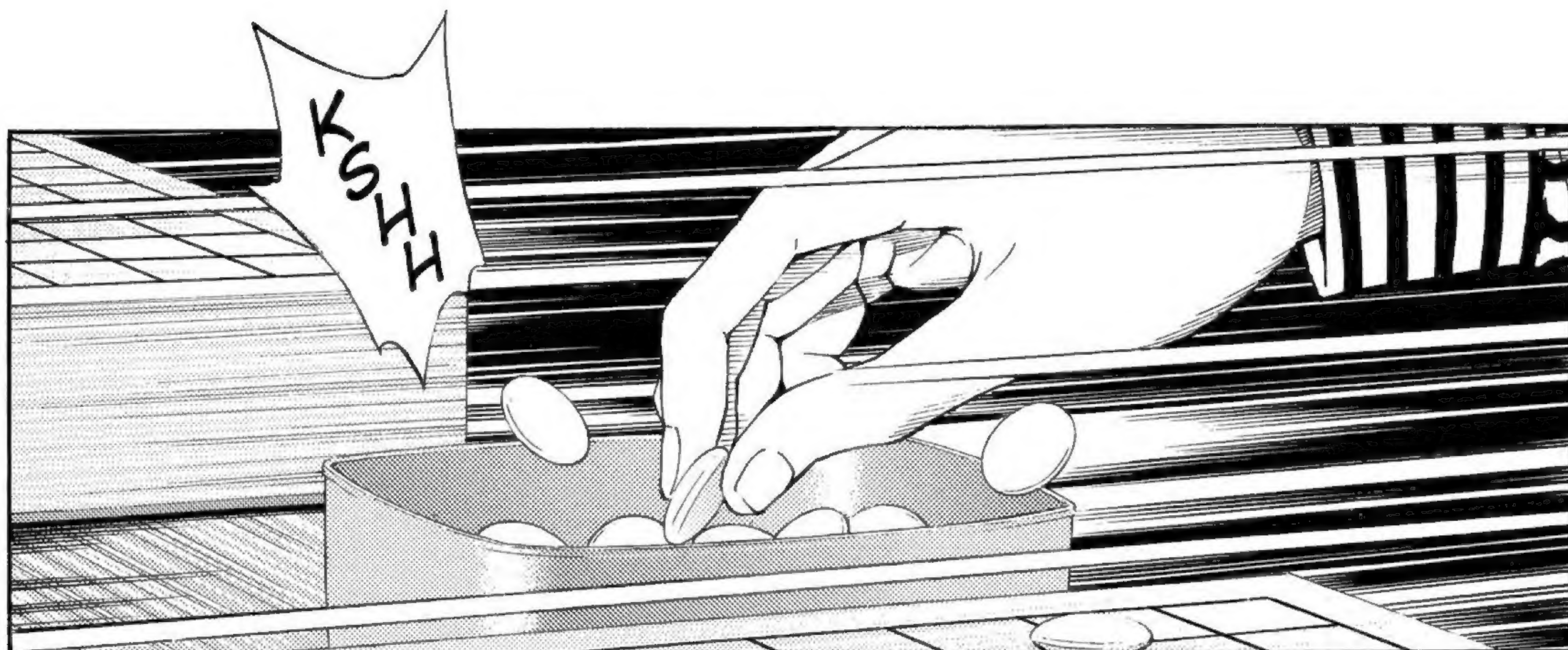


ALMOST MAKES  
ME THINK IT'S  
WORTHWHILE TO  
HAVE STUCK  
AROUND FOR SO  
LONG.

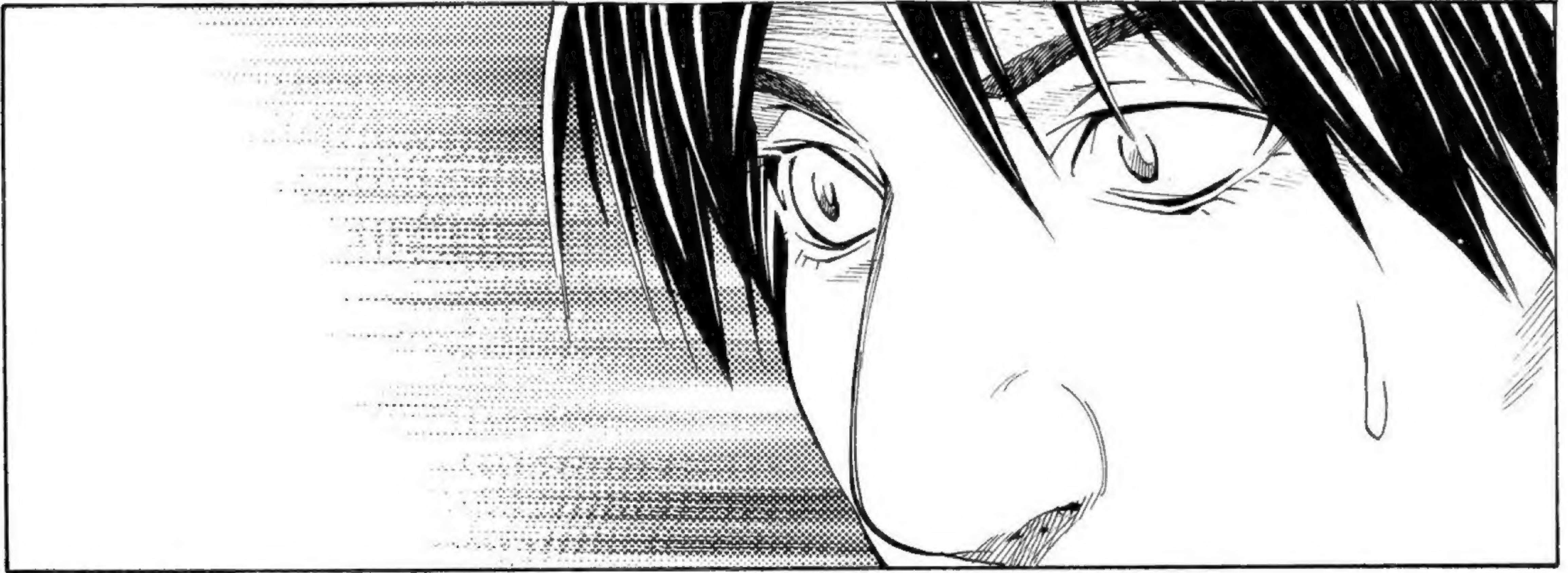












The End of One Step Forward!



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